

FRONTISPIE CE.

Vol. IV.



Dodd del.

Coak sc.

Renaldo Surprised by Monimia in the Church.

Published as the Act directs Oct 6. 1780.

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VOL. XV.

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Being the FOURTH VOLUME of  
THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF  
Ferdinand Count Fathom.

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T H E  
A D V E N T U R E S  
O F

Ferdinand Count Fathom.

By the Author of RODERICK RANDOM.

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—*Materiam risus, invenit ad omnes  
Occursus hominum — — —  
Ridebat curas, nec non et gaudia vulgi;  
Interdum et lachrymas funderat.*—

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VOL. IV.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for JOSEPH WENMAN,  
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M.DCC.LXXX.



W. D. C. XXXX.

T H E  
A D V E N T U R E S  
O F

Ferdinand Count Fathom.

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[Continuation of CHAP. LII.]

**F**ATHOM, in his researches, found that the great world was wholly engrossed by a few practitioners who had arrived at the summit of reputation, consequently, were no longer obliged to cultivate those arts by which they rose; and that the rest of the business was parcelled out into small inclosures, occupied by different groupes of personages, male and female, who stood in rings, and tossed the ball from one to another, there being in each department two sets, the individuals of which relieved one another occasionally. Every knot was composed of a waiting-woman, nurse, apothecary, surgeon and physician, and sometimes, a midwife was admitted into the party; and in this manner the farce was commonly performed.

A fine lady, fatigued with idleness, complains of the vapours, is deprived of her rest, though not so sick as to have recourse to medicine: her favourite maid, tired with giving her attendance in the night, thinks proper, for the benefit of her own repose, to complain of a violent head-ach, and recommends to her mistress a nurse of approved tenderness and dis-

cretion; at whose house (in all likelihood) the said chamber-maid hath oft given the rendezvous to a male friend. The nurse, well skilled in the mysteries of her occupation, persuades the patient, that her malady, far from being slight or chimerical, may proceed to a very dangerous degree of the hysterical affection, unless it be nipt in the bud by some very effectual remedy: then she recounts a surprising cure performed by a certain apothecary, and appeals to the testimony of the waiting-woman, who being the gossip of his wife, confirms the evidence, and corroborates the proposal. The apothecary being summoned, finds her ladyship in such a delicate situation, that he declines prescribing, and advises her to send for a physician without delay. The nomination, of course, falls to him, and the doctor being called, declares the necessity of immediate venæsection, which is accordingly performed by the surgeon of the association.

This is one way of beginning the game: though the commencement often varies, and sometimes the apothecary, and sometimes the physician opens the scene; but, be that as it will, they always appear in a string, like a flight of wild geese, and each confederacy maintains a correspondence with one particular undertaker. Fathom, upon these considerations, set up his rest in the first floor of an apothecary in the neighbourhood of Charing cross, to whom he was introduced by a letter from a friend at Tunbridge, and who being made acquainted with his ability and scheme, promised to let slip no opportunity of serving him; and, indeed, seemed to espouse his interest with great alacrity. He introduced him to some of his patients, on the strength of a gratis visit, sounded forth his praise among all the good women of his acquaintance; and even prevailed upon him to publish advertisements, importing, that he would, every day, at a certain time and place, give his advice to the poor for nothing; hoping, that, by means of some  
lucky

lucky cure, his fame might be extended, and his practice grow into request.

In the mean time, his chariot rolled along through all the most frequented streets, during the whole forenoon, and, at the usual hour, he never failed to make his appearance at the medical coffee-house, with all that solemnity of feature and address, by which the modern sons of Pæan are distinguished; not but that he was often puzzled about the decision of his diurnal route: for the method of driving up one street, and down another, without halting, was become such a stale expedient, that the very 'prentices used to stand at the shop doors, and ridicule the vain parade. At length, however, he perused the map of London with diligence, and having acquired a distinct idea of its topography, used to alight at the end of long narrow thorough-fares, and paved courts, where the chariot was ordered to wait till his return; and walking with great gravity through the different turnings of these alleys, regain his carriage by another passage, and resume his seat with an air of vast importance. With a view to protract the time of his supposed visits, he would, at one place, turn aside to the wall: at another, cheapen an urinal: at a third corner, read a quack advertisement, or lounge a few minutes in some bookseller's shop; and, lastly, glide into some obscure coffee-house, and treat himself with a dram of usquebaugh.

The other means used to force a trade, such as ordering himself to be called from church, alarming the neighbourhood with knocking at his door in the night, receiving sudden messages in places of resort, and inserting his cures by way of news in the daily papers, had been so injudiciously hackneyed by every desperate sculler in physic, that they had lost their effect upon the public, and therefore were excluded from the plan of our adventurer, whose scheme, for the present, was to exert himself in winning the favour of those sage Sybils, who keep, as it were, the temple of me-

dicine, and admit the young priest to the service of the altar; but this he considered as a temporary project only, until he should have acquired interest enough to erect an hospital, lock, or infirmary, by the voluntary subscription of his friends; a scheme which had succeeded to a miracle, with many of the profession, who had raised themselves into notice, upon the carcasses of the poor.

Yet, even this branch was already over-stocked, in-somuch that almost every street was furnished with one of these charitable receptacles, which, instead of diminishing the taxes for the maintenance of the poor, encouraged the vulgar to be idle and dissolute, by opening an asylum to them, and their families, from the diseases of poverty and intemperance: for it remains to be proved, that the parish rates are decreased, the bills of mortality lessened, the people more numerous, or the streets less infested with beggars, notwithstanding the immense sums yearly granted by individuals for the relief of the indigent.

But, waving these reflections, doctor Fathom hoped, that his landlord would be a most useful implement for extending his influence, and, for that reason, admitted him into a degree of partnership, after being fully convinced, that he was not under articles to any other physician. Nevertheless, he was very much mistaken in reckoning on the importance of his new ally, who was, like himself, a needy adventurer, settled upon credit, and altogether unemployed, except among the very refuse of the people, whom no other person would take the trouble to attend: so that our hero got little else than experience and trouble, excepting a few guineas, which he made shift to glean among sojourners, with whom he became occasionally acquainted, or young people, who had been unfortunate in their amours.

In the midst of these endeavours, he did not omit his duty to the old gentlewoman, whose daughter he had cured at Tunbridge; and was always received  
with



with particular complacency, which, perhaps, he in some measure, owed to his genteel equipage, that gave credit to every door before which it was seen; yet Miss Biddy was as inaccessible as ever, while the mother became more and more warm in her civilities, till at length, after having prepared him with some extraordinary compliments, she gave him to understand, that Biddy was no better than a giddy-headed girl, far from being unexceptionable in her moral character, and particularly deficient in duty and gratitude to her, who had been always a tender and indulgent parent; she was therefore determined to punish the young minx, for her levity, and want of natural affection, by altering her own condition, could she find a worthy and agreeable man, on whom she could bestow her hand and fortune without a blush.

The film was instantly removed from Fathom's eyes by this declaration, which she uttered with such a significance of look, as thrilled to his soul with joyful preface, while he replied, it would, indeed, be a difficult task to find a man who merited such happiness and honour; but, surely, some there were, who would task their faculties to the uttermost, in manifesting their gratitude, and desire of rendering themselves worthy of such distinction. Though this answer was pronounced in such a manner, as gave her to understand he had taken the hint, she would not cheapen her condescension so much as to explain herself further at that juncture, and he was very well contented to woo her on her own terms; accordingly he began to season his behaviour with a spice of gallantry, when he had opportunities of being particular with this new inamorata, and in proportion to the returns she made, he gradually detached himself from Miss Biddy, by intermitting, and at last discontinuing those ardent expressions of love and admiration, which he had made shift to convey in private looks and stolen whispers; during the rancorous inspection of her mother.

Such alteration could not long escape the jealous eyes of the young lady, no more than the cause of this alienation, which in a moment, converted all her love into irreconcilable hate, and filled her whole soul with the most eager desire of vengeance: for she now not only considered him as a mercenary wretch, who had slighted her attractions for the sordid gratifications of avarice, but also as an interloper, who wanted to intercept her fortune, in the odious character of a father-in-law. But, before she could bring her aim to any ripeness of contrivance, her mother having caught cold at church, was seized with a rheumatic fever, became delirious in less than three days, and notwithstanding all the prescriptions and care of her admirer, gave up the ghost, without having retrieved the use of her senses, or been able to manifest, by will, the sentiments she entertained in favour of her physician, who (as the reader will easily perceive) had more reasons than one, to be mortally chagrined at this event.

Miss Biddy being thus put in possession of the whole inheritance, not only renounced all correspondence with doctor Fathom, by forbidding him the house, but likewise took all opportunities of prejudicing his character, by hinting, that her dear mamma had fallen a sacrifice to his ignorance and presumption.

#### C H A P. LIII.

*Acquires employment, in consequence of a lucky miscarriage.*

THESE ill offices, however, far from answering her purpose, had a quite contrary effect: for in consequence of her investives, he was, in a few days, called to the wife of a merchant, who piously hoped, that his practice would not give Miss Biddy the lie. The patient had long lingered under a complication of distempers, and being in no immediate danger of her life, doctor Fathom was in no hurry to strike a decisive stroke; till the husband growing impatient of delay, and so explicit in his hints, that it was impos-

sible

able to apprehend his meaning, our adventurer resolved to do something effectual for his satisfaction, and prescribed a medicine of such rough operation, as he thought, must either oblige his employer, or produce a change in the lady's constitution, that would make a noise in the world, and bring a new accession to his fame.

Proceeding upon these maxims, he could not be disappointed: the remedy played its part with such violence, as reduced the patient to extremity, and the merchant had actually bespoke an undertaker; when, after a series of swoonings and convulsions, nature so far prevailed, as to expel, at once, the prescription and the disease: yet the good-natured husband was so much affected with the agonies to which he saw the wife of his bosom exposed by this specific, that although the effect of it was her perfect recovery, he never could bear the sight of Fathom, for the future, nor even hear his name mentioned, without giving signs of horror and indignation: nay, he did not scruple to affirm, that had our adventurer been endowed with the least tincture of humanity, he would have suffered the poor woman to depart in peace, rather than restore her to health, at the expence of such anxiety and torture.

On the other hand, this extraordinary cure was blazoned abroad by the good lady, and her gossips, with such exaggerations as roused the astonishment of the public, and concurred with the report of his last miscarriage, to bring him upon the carpet, as the universal subject of discourse. When a physician becomes the town talk, he generally concludes his business more than half done, even though his fame should wholly turn upon his mal-practice; insomuch that some members of the faculty have been heard to complain, that they never had the good fortune to be publicly accused of homicide; and it is well known, that a certain famous empyrick, of our day, never flourished to any degree of wealth and reputa-

tion, till after he had been attacked in print, and fairly convicted of having destroyed a good number of the human species. Success raised upon such a foundation, would, by a disciple of Plato, and some modern moralists, be ascribed to the innate virtue and generosity of the human heart, which naturally espouses the cause that needs protection: but I, whose notions of human excellence are not quite so sublime, am apt to believe it is owing to that spirit of self-conceit and contradiction, which is, at least, as universal, if not as natural, as the moral sense so warmly contended for by those ideal philosophers.

The most infamous wretch often finds his account in these principles of malevolence and self love: for wheresoever his character falls under discussion, there is generally some person present, who, either from an affectation of singularity, or envy to the accusers, undertakes his defence, and endeavours to invalidate the articles of his impeachment, until he is heated by altercation, and hurried into more effectual measures for his advantage. If such benefits accrue to those who have no real merit to depend upon; surely, our hero could not but reap something extraordinary from the debates to which he now gave rise; as by the miraculous cure he had effected, all his patient's friends, all the enemies of her husband, all those who envied his other adversary, were interested in his behalf, exclusive of such admirers as surprize and curiosity might engage in his cause.

Thus wasted upon the wings of applause, his fame soon diffused itself into all the corners of this great capital: the news-papers teemed with his praise; and in order to keep up the attention of the public, his emissaries, male and female, separated into different coffee-houses, companies, and clubs, where they did not fail to comment upon these articles of intelligence. Such a favourable incident is, of itself, sufficient to float the bark of a man's fortune: he was, in a few days; called to another lady, labouring under

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the same disorder he had so successfully dispelled, and she thought herself benefited by his advice. His acquaintance naturally extended itself among the visitants and allies of his patient's; he was recommended from family to family: the fees began to multiply; a variety of footmen appeared every day at his door; he discontinued his sham circuit, and looking upon the present conjuncture, as that tide in his affairs, which (according to Shakespear) when taken at the full, leads on to fortune, he resolved, that the opportunity should not be lost, and applied himself with such assiduity to his practice, that, in all likelihood, he would have carried the palm from all his contemporaries, had not he split upon the same rock which had shipwrecked his hopes before.

We have formerly descanted upon that venereal appetite, which glowed in the constitution of our adventurer, and which all his philosophy and caution could hardly keep within bounds: the reader, therefore, will not be much surprised, to learn, that, in the exercise of his profession, he contracted an intimacy with a clergyman's wife, whom he attended as a physician, and whose conjugal virtue he subdued by a long and diligent exertion of his delusive arts, while her mind was enervated by sickness, and her husband abroad upon his necessary occasions. This unhappy patient, who was a woman of an agreeable person, and lively conversation, fell a sacrifice to her own security and self-conceit: her want of health had confined her to a sedentary life, and her imagination being active and restless, she had spent those hours in reading, which other young women devote to company and diversion: but, as her studies were not superintended by any person of taste, she had indulged her own fancy without method or propriety. The Spectator taught her to be a critic and philosopher; from plays she learned poetry and wit; and derived her knowledge of life from books of history and adventures. Fraught with these acquisitions, and  
furnished

furnished by nature with uncommon vivacity, she despised her own sex, and courted the society of men, among whom she thought her talents might be more honourably displayed; fully confident of her own virtue and sagacity, which enabled her to set all their arts at defiance.

Thus qualified, she, in an evil hour, had recourse to the advice of our adventurer, for some ailment under which she had long laboured; and found such relief from his skill, as very much prepossessed her in his favour: she was no less pleased with his obliging manners, than with his physic; and found much entertainment in his conversation, so that the acquaintance proceeded to a degree of intimacy; during which, he perceived her weak side, and being enamoured of her person, flattered her out of all her caution. The privilege of his character furnished him with opportunities to lay snares for her virtue, and taking advantage of that listlessness, languor, and indolence of the spirits, by which all the vigilance to the soul is relaxed, he, after a long course of attention and perseverance, found means to make shipwreck of her peace.

Though he mastered her chastity, he could not quiet her conscience, which incessantly upbraided her with breach of the marriage vow; nor did her undoer escape without a share of the reproaches suggested by her penitence and remorse. This internal anxiety co-operating with her disease, and, perhaps, with the medicines he prescribed, reduced her to the brink of the grave; when her husband returned from a neighbouring kingdom, in consequence of her earnest request, joined to the information of her friends, who had written to him an account of the extremity in which she was. The good man was afflicted beyond measure, when he saw himself upon the verge of losing a wife whom he had always tenderly loved: but, what were his emotions, when she, taking the first opportunity of his being alone with her, accost-

ed him to this effect: 'I am now hastening towards that dissolution, from which no mortal is exempted; and though the prospect of futurity is altogether clouded and uncertain, my conscience will not allow me to plunge into eternity, without unburthening my mind, and by an ingenuous confession, making all the atonement in my power, for the ingratitude I have been guilty of, and the wrongs I have committed against a virtuous husband, who never gave me cause of complaint. You stand amazed at this preamble; but, alas! how will you be shocked when I own that I have betrayed you in your absence; that I have trespassed against God and my marriage-vow, and fallen from the pride and confidence of virtue, to the most abject state of vice: yes, I have been unfaithful to your bed, having fallen a victim to the infernal insinuations of a villain, who took advantage of my weak and unguarded moments. Fathom is the wretch who hath thus injured your honour, and ruined my unsuspecting innocence. I have nothing to plead in alleviation of my crime, but the most sincere contrition of heart; and though, at any other juncture, I could not expect your forgiveness, yet, as I now touch the goal of life, I trust in your humanity and benevolence, for that pardon which will lighten the sorrows of my soul, and those prayers which I hope will entitle me to favour at the throne of grace.'

The poor husband was so much overwhelmed with grief and confusion, at this unexpected address, that he could not recollect himself till after a pause of several minutes, when uttering a hollow groan, 'I will not,' said he, 'aggravate your sufferings, by reproaching you with my wrongs; though your conduct hath been but an ill return for all my tenderness and esteem. I look upon it as a trial of my christian patience, and bear my misfortune with resignation; mean while, I forgive you from my heart,

heart, and fervently pray; that your repentance may be acceptable to the father of mercy.' So saying, he approached her bed-side, and embraced her in token of his sincerity. Whether this generous condescension diffused such a composure upon her spirits, as tended to the ease and refreshment of nature, which had been almost exhausted by disease and vexation; certain it is, that, from this day, she began to struggle with her malady in surprizing efforts; and hourly gained ground, until her health was pretty well re-established.

This recovery was so far beyond the husband's expectation, that he began to make very serious reflections on the event, and even to wish he had not been quite so precipitate in pardoning the backslidings of his wife; for, though he could not withhold his compassion from a dying penitent, he did not at all relish the thoughts of cohabiting, as usual, with a wife; self-convicted of the violation of the matrimonial contract: he therefore considered his declaration as no more than a provisional pardon, to take place on condition of her immediate death; and, in a little time, not only communicated to her his sentiments on this subject; but also separated himself from her company, secured the evidence of her maid, who had been confidante in her amour with Fathom, and immediately set on foot a prosecution against our adventurer, whose behaviour to his wife, he did not fail to promulgate, with all its aggravating circumstances. By these means the doctor's name became so notorious, that every man was afraid of admitting him into his house, and every woman ashamed of soliciting his advice.

#### C H A P. LIV.

*His eclipse, and gradual declination.*

**M**ISFORTUNES seldom come single: upon the back of this hue and cry, he unluckily prescribed phlebotomy to a gentleman of some rank, who



who chanced to expire during the operation; and quarrelled with his landlord the apothecary, who charged him with having forgot the good offices he had done him in the beginning of his career; and desired he would provide himself with another lodging.

All these mis-haps treading upon the heels of one another, had a very very mortifying effect upon his practice. At every tea-table, his name was occasionally put to the torture, with that of the vile creature whom he had seduced; though it was generally taken for granted, by all those female casuists, that she must have made the first advances; for it could not be supposed, that any man would take much trouble in laying schemes for the ruin of a person whose attractions were so slender, especially considering the ill state of her health, a circumstance that seldom adds to a woman's beauty or good humour; besides, she was always a pert minx, that affected singularity, and a masculine manner of speaking; and many of them had foreseen, that she would, some time or other, bring herself into such a præmunire. At all gossipings, where the apothecary or his wife assisted, Fathom's pride, ingratitude, and malpractice were canvassed; in all clubs of married men, he was mentioned with marks of abhorrence and detestation; and every medical coffee house rung with his reproach. Instances of his ignorance and presumption were quoted, and many particulars feigned for the purpose of defamation; so that our hero was exactly in the situation of a horseman, who, in riding at full speed for the plate, is thrown from the saddle in the middle of the race, and left without sense or motion upon the plain. His progress, though rapid, had been so short, that he could not be supposed to have laid up store against the day of trouble; and as he still cherished hopes of surmounting those obstacles which had so suddenly started up in his way, he would not resign his equipage, nor retrench his expences; but  
appeared,

appeared, as usual, in all public places, with that serenity and confidence of feature which he had never deposited; and maintained his external pomp, upon the little he had reserved in the days of his prosperity, and the credit he had acquired by the punctuality of his former payments. Both these funds, however, failed in a very little time: his law-suit was a gulph that swallowed up all his ready money; and the gleanings of his practice were scarce sufficient to answer his pocket expences, which now encreased in proportion to the decrease of business; for as he had more idle time, and was less admitted into private families, so he thought he had more occasion to enlarge his acquaintance among his own sex, who alone were able to support him in his disgrace with the other. He accordingly lifted himself in several clubs, and endeavoured to monopolize the venereal branch of trade: though this was but an indifferent resource; for almost all his patients of this class, were such as either could not, or would not properly recompence the physician.

For some time, he lingered in this situation, without going upwards or downwards, floating like a wisp of straw, at the turning of the tide, until he could no longer amuse the person of whom he had hired his coach horses, or postpone the other demands, which multiplied upon him every day. Then was his chariot overturned with a hideous crash, and his face so much wounded with the shivers of the glass, which went to pieces in the fall, that he appeared in the coffeehouse with half a dozen black patches upon his countenance, gave a most circumstantial detail of the risque he had run, and declared, that he did not believe he should ever hazard himself again in any sort of wheel carriage.

Soon after this accident, he took an opportunity of telling his friends, in the same public place, that he had turned away his footman, on account of his drunkenness, and was resolved, for the future, to keep

keep none but maids in his service, because the men-servants are generally impudent, lazy, debauched, or dishonest; and, after all, neither so neat, handy, or agreeable as the other sex. In the rear of this resolution, he shifted his lodgings into a private court, being distracted with the din of carriages, that disturb the inhabitants who live towards the open street; and gave his acquaintance to understand, that he had a medical work upon the anvil, which he could not finish without being indulged in silence and tranquillity. In effect, he gradually put on the exteriors of an author: his watch, with an horizontal movement by Graham, which he had often mentioned, and shewn as a very curious piece of workmanship, began, about this time, to be very much out of order, and was committed to the care of a mender, who was in no hurry to restore it. His tye-wig degenerated into a major; he sometimes appeared without a sword, and was even observed in public with a second day's shirt: at last, his clothes became rusty, and when he walked about the streets, his head turned round in a surprizing manner, by an involuntary motion in his neck, which he had contracted by an habit of reconnoitering the ground, that he might avoid all dangerous or disagreeable encounters.

Fathom, finding himself descending the hill of fortune, with an acquired gravitation, strove to catch at every twig, in order to stop or retard his descent. He now regretted the opportunities he had neglected, of marrying one of several women of moderate fortune, who had made advances to him, in the zenith of his reputation; and endeavoured, by forcing himself into a lower path of life than any he had hitherto trod, to keep himself afloat, with the portion of some tradesman's daughter, whom he meant to espouse. While he exerted himself in this pursuit, he happened, in returning from a place about thirty miles from London, to become acquainted, in the stage coach, with a young woman, of a very homely appearance, whom,  
from

from the driver's information, he understood to be the niece of a country justice, and daughter of a soap boiler, who had lived and died in London, and left her, in her infancy, sole heiress of his effects, which amounted to four thousand pounds. The uncle, who was her guardian, had kept her sacred from the knowledge of the world, resolving to effect a match betwixt her and his own son; and it was with much difficulty he had consented to this journey, which she had undertaken as a visit to her own mother, who had married a second husband in town.

Fraught with these anecdotes, Fathom began to put forth his gallantry and good humour, and in a word, was admitted by the lady, to the privilege of an acquaintance, in which capacity he visited her during the term of her residence in London; and as there was no time to be lost, declared his honourable intentions: he had such a manifest advantage, in point of personal accomplishments, over the young gentleman who was destined for her husband, that she did not disdain his proposals, and before she set out for the country, he had made such progress in her heart, that the day was actually fixed for their nuptials, on which he faithfully promised to carry her off in a coach and six. How to raise money for this expedition was all the difficulty that remained: for, by this time, his finances were utterly dried up, and his credit altogether exhausted. Upon a very pressing occasion, he had formerly applied himself to a certain wealthy quack, who had relieved his necessities by lending him a small sum of money, in return for having communicated to him a secret medicine, which he affirmed to be the most admirable specific that ever was invented. The nostrum had been used, and luckily for him, succeeded in the trial; so that the empyrick, in the midst of his satisfaction, began to reflect, that this same Fathom, who pretended to be in possession of a great many remedies, equally efficacious, would certainly become a formidable rival

rival to him, in his business, should he ever be able to extricate himself from his present difficulties.

In consequence of these suggestions, he resolved to keep our adventurer's head under water, by maintaining him in the most abject dependance; accordingly he had, from time to time, accommodated him with small trifles, which barely served to support his existence, and even for these had taken notes of hand, that he might have a scourge over head, in case he should prove insolent or refractory. To this benefactor Fathom applied for a reinforcement of twenty guineas, which he solicited with the more confidence, as that sum would certainly enable him to repay all other obligations. The quack would advance the money upon no other condition, than that of knowing the scheme, which being explained, he complied with Ferdinand's request; but at the same time privately dispatched an express to the young lady's uncle, with a full account of the whole conspiracy; so that when the doctor arrived at the inn, according to appointment, he was received by his worship, in person, who gave him to understand, that his niece had changed her mind, and gone fifty miles farther into the country to visit a relation. This was a grievous disappointment to Fathom, who really believed his mistress had forsaken him through mere levity and caprice, and was not undeceived till several months after her marriage with her cousin, when, at an accidental meeting in London, she explained the story of the secret intelligence, and excused her marriage, as the effect of rigorous usage and compulsion.

Had our hero been really enamoured of her person, he might have probably accomplished his wishes, notwithstanding the steps she had taken; but this was not the case; his passion was of a different nature, and the object of it effectually without his reach. With regard to his appetite for women, as it was an infirmity of his constitution, which he could not overcome,

overcome, and as he was in no condition to gratify it at a great expence, he had of late chosen an house-keeper from the hundreds of Drury, and to avoid scandal, allowed her to assume his name. As to the intimation which had been sent to the country justice, he immediately imputed it to the true author, whom he marked for his vengeance accordingly; but, in the mean time, suppressed his resentment, because he, in some measure, depended upon him for subsistence. On the other hand, the quack, dreading the forwardness and plausibility of our hero, which might, one time or other, render him independent, put a stop to those supplies, on pretence of finding them inconvenient, but out of his friendship and good will to Fathom, undertook to procure for him such letters of recommendation, as would infallibly make his fortune in the West-Indies, and even to fit him out in a genteel manner for the voyage. Ferdinand perceived his drift, and thanked him for his generous offer, which he would not fail to consider with all due deliberation: though he was determined against the proposal, but obliged to temporize, that he might not incur the displeasure of this man, at whose mercy he lay. Mean while the prosecution against him, in Doctor's Commons, drew near a period, and the lawyers were clamorous for money, without which he foresaw he should lose the advantage which his cause had lately acquired by the death of his antagonist's chief evidence: he therefore, seeing every other channel shut up, began to doubt, whether the risk of being apprehended or slain in the character of an highwayman, was not over-balanced by the prospect of being acquitted of a charge which had ruined his reputation and fortune, and actually entertained thoughts of taking the air on Hounslow-Heath, when he was diverted from this expedient by a very singular adventure.

## C H A P. LV.

*After divers unsuccessful efforts, he has recourse to the matrimonial noose.*

CHANCING to meet with one of his acquaintance at a certain coffee-house, the discourse turned upon the characters of mankind, when, among other oddities, his friend brought upon the carpet a certain old gentlewoman of such a rapacious disposition, that, like a jack-daw, she never beheld any metalline substance without an inclination, and even an effort to secrete it for her own use and contemplation: nor was this infirmity originally produced from indigence, inasmuch as her circumstances had been always affluent, and she was now possessed of a considerable sum of money in the funds; notwithstanding which, the avarice of her nature tempted her to let lodgings, though few people could live under the same roof with such an original, who rather than be idle, had often fished pieces of her own plate, and charged her servants with the theft, or hinted suspicion of her lodgers. Fathom, struck with the description, soon perceived how this woman's disease might be converted to his advantage; and after having obtained sufficient intelligence, on pretence of satisfying his curiosity, he visited the widow, in consequence of a bill at her door, and actually hired an apartment in her house, whither he forthwith repaired with his inamorata. It was not long before he perceived that his landlady's character had been misrepresented; he fed her distemper with divers considerable trinkets, such as copper medals, cork screws, odd buckles, and a paultry seal set in silver, which were, at different times, laid as baits for her infirmity, and always conveyed away with remarkable eagerness, which he and his Dulcinea took pleasure in observing from an unexpected place. Thus confirmed in his opinion, he at length took an opportunity

tunity of exposing a metal watch that belonged to his mistress, and saw it seized, with great satisfaction, in the absence of his help-mate, who had gone abroad on purpose. According to instruction, she soon returned, and began to raise a terrible clamour about the loss of her watch; upon which she was consoled by her landlady, who seemed to doubt the integrity of the maid, and even proposed, that Mrs. Fathom should apply to some justice of the peace, for a warrant to search the servant's trunk. The lady thanked her for the good advice, in compliance with which, she had immediate recourse to a magistrate, who granted a search warrant, not against the maid, but the mistress; and she, in a little time, returned with the constable at her back.

These precautions being taken, doctor Fathom desired a private conference with the old gentlewoman, in which he gave her to understand, that he had undoubted proofs of her having secreted, not only the watch, but also several other odd things, of less consequence, which he had lost since his residence in her house: he then shewed the warrant he had obtained against her, and asked if she had any thing to offer, why the constable should not do his duty. Inexpressible were the anguish and confusion of the defendant, when she found herself thus entrapped, and reflected, that she was on the point of being detected of felony; for she at once concluded, that the snare was laid for her, and knew that the officer of justice would certainly find the unlucky watch in one of the drawers of her scrutore.

Tortured with these suggestions, afraid of public disgrace, and dreading the consequence of legal conviction, she fell on her knees before the injured Fathom, and after having imputed her crime to the temptations of necessity, implored his compassion, promised to restore the watch, and every thing she had taken, and begged he would dismiss the constable,



ble, that her reputation might not suffer in the eye of the world.

Ferdinand, with a severity of countenance purposely assumed, observed, that were she really indigent, he had charity enough to forgive what she had done; but, as he knew her circumstances were opulent, he looked upon this excuse as an aggravation of her guilt, which was certainly the effect of a vicious inclination; and he was therefore determined to prosecute her with the utmost severity of the law, as an example and terror to others, who might be infected with the same evil disposition. Finding him deaf to all her tears and intreaties, she changed the note, and offered him one hundred guineas, if he would compromise the affair, and drop the prosecution, so as that her character should sustain no damage: after much argumentation, he consented to accept of double the sum, which being instantly paid in East-India bonds, doctor Fathom told the constable, that the watch was found; and for once her reputation was patched up. This seasonable supply enabled our hero to stand trial with his adversary, who was nonsuited, and also to mend his external appearance, which of late had not been extremely magnificent.

Soon after this gleam of good fortune, a tradesman, to whom he was considerably indebted, seeing no other probable means to recover his money, introduced Fathom to the acquaintance of a young widow who lodged at his house, and was said to be in possession of a considerable fortune. Considering the steps that were taken, it would have been almost impossible for him to miscarry in his addresses: the lady had been bred in the country, was unacquainted with the world, and of a very sanguine disposition, which her short trial of matrimony had not served to cool. Our adventurer was instructed to call at the tradesman's house, as if by accident, at an appointed time, when the widow was drinking tea with her landlady; on these occasions he always behaved to admiration.

She liked his person, and praised his politeness, good humour, and good sense: his confederates extolled him as a prodigy of learning, taste, and good nature; they likewise represented him as a person on the eve of eclipsing all his competitors in physic: an acquaintance and intimacy soon ensued; nor was he restricted in point of opportunity. In a word, he succeeded in his endeavours, and one evening, on pretence of attending her to the play, he accompanied her to the Fleet, where they were married, in presence of the tradesman and his wife, who were of the party.

This grand affair being accomplished to his satisfaction, he next day visited her brother, who was a counsellor of the Temple, to make him acquainted with the step his sister had taken; and though the lawyer was not a little mortified to find she had made such a clandestine match, he behaved civilly to his new brother-in-law, and gave him to understand, that his wife's fortune consisted of a jointure of one hundred and fifty pounds a year, and fifteen hundred pounds bequeathed to her during her widowhood, by her own father, who had taken the precaution of settling it in the hands of trustees, in such a manner as that any husband she might afterwards espouse, should be restricted from encroaching upon the capital, which was reserved for the benefit of her heirs. This intimation was far from being agreeable to our hero, who had been informed that this sum was absolutely at the lady's disposal, and had actually destined the greatest part of it for the payment of his debts, for defraying the expence of furnishing an elegant house, and setting up a new equipage.

Notwithstanding this disappointment, he resolved to carry on his plan, upon the credit of his marriage, which was published in a very pompous article of the news papers; a chariot was bespoke, a ready-furnished house immediately taken, and Dr. Fathom began to re-appear in all his former splendor.

His good friend the empiric, alarmed at this event, which

which not only raised our adventurer into the sphere of a dangerous rival, but also furnished him with means to revenge the ill office he had sustained at his hands, on the adventure of the former match; for by this time Fathom had given him some hints, importing, that he was not ignorant of his treacherous behaviour; roused, I say, by these considerations, he employed one of his emissaries, who had some knowledge of Fathom's brother-in-law, to prejudice him against our adventurer, whom he represented as a needy sharper, not only overwhelmed with debt and disgrace, but likewise previously married to a poor woman, who was prevented by nothing but want from seeking redress at law. To confirm these assertions, he gave him a detail of Fathom's incumbrances, which he had learned for the purpose, and even brought the counsellor in company with the person who had lived with our hero before marriage, and who was so much incensed at her abrupt dismissal, that she did not scruple to corroborate these allegations of the informer.

The lawyer, startled at this intelligence, set on foot a minute inquiry into the life and conversation of the doctor, which turned out so little to the advantage of his character and circumstances, that he was resolved, if possible, to disunite him from his family, and as a previous step, repeated to his sister all that he had heard to the prejudice of her husband, not forgetting to produce the evidence of his mistress, who laid claim to him by a prior title, which, she pretended, could be proved by the testimony of the clergyman who joined them. Such an explanation could not fail to inflame the resentment of the injured wife, who, at the very first opportunity, giving a loose to the impetuosity of her temper, upbraided our hero with the most bitter invectives for his perfidious dealing.

Ferdinand, conscious of his own innocence, which he had not always to plead, far from attempting to soothe her indignation, assumed the authority and

prerogative of an husband, and sharply reprehended her for her credulity and indecent warmth. This rebuke, instead of silencing, gave new spirit and volubility to her reproaches, in the course of which she plainly taxed him with want of honesty and affection, and said, that though his pretence was love, his aim was no other than a base design upon her fortune.

Fathom, stung with these accusations, which he really did not deserve, replied, with uncommon heat, and charged her in his turn with want of sincerity and candour, in the false account she had given of that same fortune before marriage: he even magnified his own condescension, in surrendering his liberity to a woman who had so little to recommend her to the addresses of the other sex; a reflection which provoked this mild creature to such a degree of animosity, that, forgetting her duty and allegiance, she lent him a box on the ear with such energy as made his eyes water; and he, for the honour of his manhood and sovereignty, having washed her face with a dish of tea, withdrew abruptly to a coffee-house in the neighbourhood, where he had not long remained, when his passion subsided, and he then saw the expediency of an immediate reconciliation, which he resolved to purchase, even at the expence of a submission.

It was pity that such a salutary resolution had not been sooner taken: for when he returned to his own house, he understood, that Mrs. Fathom had gone abroad in an hackney-coach: and upon examining her apartment, in lieu of her clothes and trinkets, which she had removed with admirable dexterity and dispatch, he found this billet in one of the drawers of her bureau, ‘ Sir, being convinced that you are a cheat and impostor, I have withdrawn myself from your cruelty and machinations, with a view to solicit the protection of the law; and I doubt not but I shall soon be able to prove, that you have no just title to, or demand upon the person or effects of the unfortunate Sarah Muddy.’

The time had been when Mr. Fathom would have allowed Mrs. Muddy to refine at her leisure, and blessed God for his happy deliverance; but at present the case was quite altered. Smarting as he was from the expence of law suits, he dreaded a prosecution for bigamy, which (though he had justice on his side) he knew he could not of himself support; besides, all his other schemes of life were frustrated by this unluckily elopement; he therefore speedily determined to anticipate, as much as in him lay, the malice of his enemies, and to obtain, without delay, authentic documents of his marriage. With this view he hastened to the house of the tradesman, who, with his wife, had been witness to the ceremony and consummation; and, in order to interest them the more warmly in his cause, made a pathetic recital of this unhappy breach, in which he had suffered such injury and insult: but all his rhetoric would not avail; Mrs. Muddy had been beforehand with him, and had proved the better orator of the two; for she had assailed this honest couple with such tropes and figures of eloquence, as were altogether irresistible. Nevertheless, they heard our hero to an end, with great patience: then the wife, who was the common mouth upon all such occasions, contracting her features into a very formal disposition, 'I'll assure you,' said she, 'doctor Fathom, my husband and I have been in a very great terrification and numbplush, to hear such bad things of a person, whom, as one may say, we thought a worthy gentleman, and were ready to serve at all times, by day and by night, as the saying is; and besides, for all that, you know, and God knows, as we are duttrious people, and work hard for what we get, and we have served gentlemen to our own harm, whereby my husband was last Tuesday served with a siserary, being that he was bound for an officer that ran away: and I said to my husband, Timothy, says I, 'tis a very hard thing for one to ruin one's self for stranger people.

‘ There’s doctor Fathom, says I, his account comes to nine and forty pounds seven shillings and four-pence halfpenny; and you know, doctor, that was before your last bill began: but, howsomever, little did I think, as how a gentleman of your learning would go to deceive a poor gentlewoman, when you had another wife alive.’

In vain did our adventurer endeavour to vindicate himself from this aspersion; the good woman, like a great many modern disputants, proceeded with her declamation, without seeming to hear what was said on the other side of the question; and the husband was altogether neutral. At length, Ferdinand finding all his protestations ineffectual, ‘ Well,’ said he, ‘ though you are resolved, I see, to discredit all that I can say in opposition to that scandalous slander, of which I can easily acquit myself in a court of justice, surely you will not refuse to grant me a certificate, signifying, that you were present at the ceremony of my marriage with this unhappy woman.’

‘ You shall excuse us (replied the female orator), people cannot be too wary in signing their names, in this wicked world; many a one has been brought to ruination by signing his name, and my husband shall not, with my good will, draw himself into such a primmineery.’

Fathom, alarmed at this refusal, earnestly argued against the inhumanity and injustice of it, appealing to their own conscience for the reasonableness of his proposal: but, from the evasive answers of the wife, he had reason to believe, that, long before the time of trial, they would take care to have forgotten the whole transaction.

Though he was equally confounded and incensed at this instance of their perfidy, he durst not manifest his indignation, conscious of the advantage they had over him in divers respects; but repaired, without loss of time, to the lodging of the clergyman who had

noosed

moosed him, resolved to consult his register, and secure his evidence. Here too his evil genius had got the start of him, for the worthy ecclesiastic not only could not recollect his features, or find his name in the register; but, when importuned by his pressing remonstrances, took umbrage at the freedom of his behaviour, and threatened, if he would not immediately take himself away, to raise the posse of the Fleet, for the safety of his own person.

Rather than put the pastor to the trouble of alarming his flock, he retreated with a heavy heart, and went in quest of his mistress whom he had dismissed at his marriage, in hopes of effecting a reconciliation, and preventing her from joining in the conspiracy against him; but, alas! he met with such a reception as he had reason to expect from a slighted woman, who had never felt any real attachment for his person. She did not upbraid him with his cruelty in leaving her as a mistress, but, with a species of effrontery never enough to be admired, reproached him with his villiany, in abandoning her, who was his true and lawful wife, to go and ruin the poor gentlewoman, by whose fortune he had been allured.

When he attempted to expostulate with this virago, upon the barbarity of this assertion, she very prudently declined engaging in private conversation with such an artful and wicked man, and calling up the people of the house, insisted upon his being conducted to the door.

#### C H A P. LVI.

*In which his fortune is effectually strangled.*

THE last resource, and that upon which he least depended, was the advice and assistance of his old friend the empiric, with whom he still maintained a slight correspondence; and to whose house he steered his course, in great perplexity and tribulation. That gentleman, instead of consoling him with assurances of friendship and protection, faithfully re-

capitulated all the instances of his indiscretion and misconduct, taxed him with want of sincerity in the West-India affair, as well as with want of honesty in this last marriage, while his former wife was alive; and finally, reminded him of his notes, which he desired might be immediately taken up, as he (the quack) had present occasion for a sum of money.

Ferdinand, seeing it would be impracticable to derive any succour from this quarter, sneaked homewards, in order to hold a consultation with his own thoughts; and the first object that presented itself to his eyes, when he entered his apartment, was a letter from the tradesman, with his account inclosed, amounting to fifty-five pounds, which the writer desired might be paid without delay. Before he had time to peruse the articles, he received a summons, in consequence of a bill of indictment for bigamy, found against him in Hicks's-hall, by Sarah Muddy, widow; and while he was revolving measures to avert these storms, another billet arrived from a certain attorney, giving him to understand, that he had orders from doctor Buffalo, the quack, to sue him for the payment of several notes, unless he would take them up in three days from the date of this letter.

Such a concurrence of sinister events made a deep impression upon the mind of our adventurer: all his fortitude was insufficient to bear him up against this torrent of misfortunes; his resources were all dried up, his invention failed, and his reflection began to take a new turn. 'To what purpose (said he to himself) have I deserted the paths of integrity and truth, and exhausted a fruitful imagination, in contriving schemes to betray my fellow-creatures; if, instead of acquiring a splendid fortune, which was my aim, I have suffered such a series of mortifications, and at last brought myself to the brink of inevitable destruction? By a virtuous exertion of those talents I inherit from nature and education, I might, long before this time, have rendered my-

self



self independent, and, perhaps, conspicuous in  
 life: I might have grown up like a young oak,  
 which being firmly rooted in its kindred soil, gra-  
 dually raises its lofty head, expands its leafy arms,  
 projects a noble shade, and towers the glory of the  
 plain: I should have paid the debt of gratitude to  
 my benefactors, and made their hearts sing with  
 joy for the happy effects of their benevolence; I  
 should have been a bulwark to my friends, a shelter  
 to my neighbours in distress; I should have run the  
 race of honour, seen my fame diffused like a sweet-  
 smelling odour, and felt the ineffable pleasure of  
 doing good: whereas I am, after a vicissitude of  
 disappointments, dangers, and fatigues, reduced  
 to misery and shame, aggravated by a conscience  
 loaded with treachery and guilt. I have abused the  
 confidence and generosity of my patron; I have de-  
 frauded his family, under the mask of sincerity and  
 attachment; I have taken the most cruel and base  
 advantages of virtue in distress; I have seduced un-  
 suspecting innocence to ruin and despair; I have  
 violated the most sacred trust reposed in me by my  
 friend and benefactor; I have betrayed his love,  
 torn his noble heart asunder, by means of the most  
 perfidious slander and false insinuations; and final-  
 ly, brought to an untimely grave the fairest pattern  
 of human beauty and perfection. Shall the author  
 of these crimes pass with impunity? Shall he hope  
 to prosper in the midst of such enormous guilt? It  
 were an imputation upon providence to suppose it.  
 —Ah, no! I begin to feel myself overtaken by the  
 eternal justice of heaven! I totter on the edge of  
 wretchedness and woe, without one friendly hand  
 to save me from the terrible abyss.

These reflections which perhaps, the misery of  
 his fellow-creatures would never have inspired, had  
 he himself remained without the verge of misfortune,  
 were now produced from the sensation of his own  
 calamities; and, for the first time, his cheeks were

bedewed with the drops of penitence and sorrow. Contraries, saith Plato, are productive of each other. Reformation is oftentimes generated from unsuccessful vice; and our adventurer was, at this juncture, very well disposed to turn over a new leaf, in consequence of those salutary suggestions; though he was far from being cured beyond the possibility of a relapse: on the contrary, all the faculties of his soul were so well adapted, and had been so long habituated to deceit, that, in order to extricate himself from the evils that environed him, he would not, in all probability, have scrupled to practise it upon his own father, had a convenient opportunity occurred.

Be that as it may, he certainly, after a tedious and fruitless exercise of his invention, resolved to effect a clandestine retreat from that confederacy of enemies which he could not withstand, and once more join his fortune to that of Renaldo, whom he proposed to serve, for the future, with fidelity and affection, thereby endeavouring to atone for the treachery of his former conduct. Thus determined, he packed up his necessaries in a portmanteau, attempted to amuse his creditors with promises of speedy payment, and venturing to come forth in the dark, took a place in the Canterbury stage-coach, after having converted his superfluities into ready money. These steps were not taken with such privacy, as to elude the vigilance of his adversaries; for, although he had been cautious enough to transport himself and his baggage to the inn on Sunday evening, and never doubted that the vehicle, which set out at four o'clock on Monday morning, would convey him out of the reach of his creditors, before they could possibly obtain a writ for securing his person; they had actually taken such precautions as frustrated all his finesse; and the coach being stop in the borough of Southwark, doctor Fathom was seized by virtue of a warrant obtained on a criminal indictment, and was forthwith conducted to the prison of the King's-Bench; yet not before he  
had,

had, by his pathetic remonstrances, excited the compassion, and even drawn tears from the eyes of his fellow-passengers.

He no sooner recollected himself from the shock which must have been occasioned by this sinister incident, than he dispatched a letter to his brother-in-law the counsellor, requesting an immediate conference, in which he promised to make such a proposal, as would save him all the expence of a law-suit and trial, and at the same time effectually answer all the purposes of both. He was accordingly favoured with a visit from the lawyer, to whom, after the most solemn protestations of his own innocence, he declared, that, finding himself unable to wage war against such powerful antagonists, he had resolved even to abandon his indubitable right, and retire into another country, in order to screen himself from persecution, and remove all cause of disquiet from the prosecutrix, when he was unfortunately prevented by the warrant which had been executed against him. He said he was still willing, for the sake of his liberty, to sign a formal renunciation of his pretensions to Mrs. Fathom and her fortune, provided the deeds could be executed, and the warrant withdrawn, before he should be detained by his other creditors; and lastly, he conjured the barrister to spare himself the guilt and the charge of suborning evidence for the destruction of an unhappy man, whose misfortune was his only fault.

The lawyer felt the force of his expostulations, and though he would by no means suppose him innocent of the charge of bigamy, yet, under the pretext of humanity and commiseration, he undertook to persuade his sister to accept of a proper release, which he observed would not be binding, if executed during the confinement of Fathom; he therefore took his leave, in order to prepare the papers, withdraw the action, and take such other measures as would hinder the prisoner from giving him the slip. Next day he

returned with an order to release our hero, who being formally discharged, was conducted, by the lawyer, to a tavern in the neighbourhood, where the releases were exchanged, and every thing concluded with amity and concord. This business being happily transacted, Fathom stepped into a hackney-coach with his baggage, and was followed by a bailiff, who told him, with great composure, that he was again a prisoner, at the suit of Dr. Buffalo, and desired the coachman to re-conduct him to the lodging he had so lately discharged.

Fathom, whose fortitude had been hitherto of the pagan temper, was now fain to reinforce it with the philosophy of christian resignation, though he had not as yet arrived to such a pitch of self-denial, as to forgive the counsellor, to whose double-dealing he imputed this new calamity. After having received the compliments of the jailor on his recommitment, he took pen, ink, and paper, and composed an artful and affecting epistle to the empiric, imploring his mercy, flattering his weakness, and demonstrating the bad policy of cooping up an unhappy man in a jail, where he could never have an opportunity of doing justice to his creditors; nor did he forget to declare his intention of retiring into another country, where he might have some chance of earning a subsistence, which he had so long toiled for to no purpose in England. This last declaration he made in consequence of the jealous disposition of the quack, who, he knew, had long looked upon him in the odious light of an interloping rival. However, he reaped no benefit from this supplication, which served only to gratify the pride of Buffalo, who produced the extravagant encomiums which Fathom had bestowed upon him, as so many testimonials of his foe's bearing witness to his virtue.

## C H A P. LVII.

*Fathom being safely housed, the reader is entertained with a retrospect.*

**B**UT now it is high time to leave our adventurer to chew the cud of reflection and remorse in this solitary mansion, that we may trace Renaldo in the several steps he took to assert his right, and do justice to his family. Never man indulged a more melancholy train of ideas than that which accompanied him in his journey to the imperial court: for, notwithstanding the manifold reasons he had to expect an happy issue to his aim, his imagination was incessantly infected with something that chilled his nerves, and saddened his heart, recurring, with quick succession, like the unwearied wave that beats upon the bleak, inhospitable Greenland shore. This, the reader will easily suppose, was no other than the remembrance of the forlorn Monimia, whose image appeared to his fancy in different attitudes, according to the prevalence of the passions which raged in his bosom. Sometimes he viewed her in the light of apostacy, and then his soul was maddened with indignation and despair: but these transitory blasts were not able to efface the impressions she had formerly made upon his heart; impressions, which he had so often and so long contemplated with inconceivable rapture. These pictures still remained, representing her fair as the most perfect idea of beauty, soft and tender as an angel of mercy and compassion, warmed with every virtue of the heart, and adorned with every accomplishment of human nature: yet the alarming contrast came still in the rear of this recollection; so that his soul was by turns agitated by the tempests of horror, and overwhelmed by the floods of grief.

Here he recalled the moment on which he first beheld her, with that pleasing regret which attends the memory of a dear deceased friend; then he bitterly  
curled

curled it, as the source of all his misfortunes and affliction : he thanked heaven for having blessed him with a friend to detect her perfidy and ingratitude ; then ardently wished he had still continued under the influence of her delusion. In a word, the loneliness of his situation aggravated every horror of his reflection ; for, as he found himself without company, his imagination was never solicited, or his attention diverted from these subjects of woe ; and he travelled to Brussels in a reverie, fraught with such torments as must have entirely wrecked his reason, had not providence interposed in his behalf. He was, by his postilion, conducted to one of the best inns of the place, where he understood the cloth was already laid for supper, and as the ordinary is open to strangers, in all these houses of entertainment, he introduced himself into the company, with a view to alleviate, in some measure, his sorrow and chagrin, by the conversation of his fellow-guests : yet he was so ill prepared to obtain the relief which he courted, that he entered the apartment, and sat down to table, without distinguishing either the number or countenances of those who were present : though he himself did not remain so unregarded. His mien and deportment produced a prepossession in his favour ; and the air of affliction, so remarkable in his visage, did not fail to attract their sympathy and observation.

Among the rest was an Irish officer in the Austrian service, who having eyed Renaldo attentively, ‘ Sir,’ said he, rising, ‘ if my eyes and memory do not deceive me, you are the count de Melville, with whom I had the honour to serve upon the Rhine, during the last war.’ The youth hearing his own name mentioned, lifted up his eyes, and at once recognizing the other to be a gentleman who had been a captain in his father’s regiment, ran forwards, and embraced him with great affection.

This was, in divers respects, a fortunate rencounter for young Melville : as the officer was not only perfectly

fectly well acquainted with the situation of the count's family, but also resolved, in a few days, to set out for Vienna, whither he promised to accompany Renaldo, as soon as he understood his route lay the same way. Before the day fixed for their departure arrived, this gentleman found means to insinuate himself so far into the confidence of the count, as to learn the cause of that distress which he had observed in his features at their first meeting; and being a gentleman of uncommon vivacity, as well as sincerely attached to the family of Melville, to which he had owed his promotion; he exerted all his good humour and good sense, in amusing the fancy, and reasoning down the mortification of the afflicted Hungarian. He, in particular, endeavoured to wean his attention from the lost Monimia, by engaging it upon his domestic affairs, and upon the wrongs of his mother and sister, who he gave him to understand, were languishing under the tyranny of his father-in-law.

This was a note that effectually roused him from the lethargy of his sorrow; and the desire of taking vengeance on the oppressor, who had ruined his fortune, and made his nearest relations miserable, so entirely engrossed his thoughts, as to leave no room for other considerations. During their journey to Austria, major Farrel (that was the name of his fellow-traveller) informed him of many circumstances touching his father's house, to which himself was an utter stranger.

'The conduct of your mother,' said he, 'in marrying count Trebasi, was not at all agreeable either to the friends of the count Melville, or to her own relations, who knew her second husband to be a man of a violent temper, and rapacious disposition; which the nature of his education and employment had served rather to inflame than allay; for you well know he was a partizan during the whole course of the late war. They were, moreover, equally surprized and chagrined, when they found she took no step to prevent



' vent his seizing upon that inheritance which of right  
 ' belonged to you, and which, by the laws of Hungary,  
 ' is unalienable from the heir of blood : nevertheless,  
 ' they are now fully convinced, that she hath more  
 ' than sufficiently atoned for her indiscretion, by the  
 ' barbarity of her husband, who hath not only secluded  
 ' her from all communication with her friends and  
 ' acquaintance, but even confined her to the west tower  
 ' of your father's house, where she is said to be kept  
 ' close prisoner, and subjected to all sorts of inconvenience  
 ' and mortification. This severity she is believed  
 ' to have incurred, in consequence of having expostulated  
 ' to him upon his unjust behaviour to you  
 ' and mademoiselle, whom he hath actually shut up  
 ' in some convent in Vienna, which your relations  
 ' have not as yet been able to discover : but the memory  
 ' of your noble father is so dear to all those  
 ' who were favoured with his friendship, and the sufferings  
 ' of the countess and mademoiselle have raised  
 ' such a spirit of resentment against her cruel jailor,  
 ' that nothing is wanted but your presence to begin  
 ' the prosecution, and give a sanction to the measures  
 ' of your friends, which will, in a little time, restore  
 ' your family to the fruition of its rights and fortune :  
 ' for my own part, my dear count, I consider myself  
 ' as one wholly indebted to your house for the rank  
 ' and expectation I now enjoy, and my finances, interest,  
 ' and person, such as they are, I dedicate to  
 ' your service.'

Renaldo was not slow in making his acknowledgments  
 to this generous Hibernian, whom he informed of his  
 scheme, recounting to him his uncommon transaction  
 with the benevolent Jew, and communicating the letters  
 of recommendation he had received by his means to  
 some of the first noblemen at the imperial court. Mean  
 while, he burned with impatience to chastise count  
 Trebasi for his perfidious conduct to the widow and the  
 fatherless, and would have taken the road to Presburg,  
 without touching at Vienna, in order



der to call him to a severe account, had not he been strenuously opposed by major Farrel, who represented the imprudence of taking such a step before he had secured a proper protection from the consequences with which it might be attended.

‘It is not,’ said he, ‘your own life and fortune only which depend upon your behaviour in this emergency, but also the quiet and happiness of those who are most dear to your affection; not you alone, but likewise your mother and sister would infallibly suffer by your temerity and precipitation. First of all, deliver your credentials at court, and let us join our endeavours to raise an interest strong enough to counterbalance that of Trebasi. If we succeed, there will be no necessity for having recourse to personal measures; he will be compelled to yield up your inheritance which he unjustly detains, and to restore your sister to your arms; and if he afterwards refuses to do justice to the countess, you will always have it in your power to evince yourself the son of the brave count de Melville.’

These just and salutary representations had a due effect upon Renaldo, who no sooner arrived at the capital of Austria, than he waited upon a certain prince of distinction, to whose patronage he was commended; and from whom he met with a very cordial reception, not only on account of his credentials, but also for the sake of his father, who was well known to his highness. He heard his complaints with great patience and affability, assured him of his assistance and protection, and even undertook to introduce him to the empress queen, who would not suffer the weakest of her subjects to be oppressed, much less disregard the cause of an injured young nobleman who, by his own services and those of his family, was peculiarly intitled to her favour.

Nor was he the only person whose countenance and patronage Melville solicited upon this occasion; he visited all the friends of his father, and all his mother's relations

relations, who were easily interested in his behalf; while major Farrel contributed all his efforts in strengthening the association. So that a law suit was immediately commenced against count Trebasi, who on his side was not idle, but prepared with incredible industry for the assault, resolving to maintain with his whole power the acquisition he had made.

The laws of Hungary, like those of some other countries I could name, afford so many subterfuges, for the purposes of perfidy and fraud, that it is no wonder our youth began to complain of the slow progress of his affair; especially as he glowed with the most eager desire of redressing the grievances of his parent and sister, whose sufferings he did not doubt were doubled since the institution of his process against their tormentor. He imparted his sentiments on this head to his friend; and, as his apprehensions every moment increased, plainly told him he could no longer live without making some effort to see those with whom he was so nearly connected in point of blood and affection: he therefore resolved to repair immediately to Presburg, and according to the intelligence he should procure, essay to see and converse with his mother, though at the hazard of his life.

#### C H A P. LVIII.

*Renaldo abridges the proceedings at law, and approves himself the son of his father.*

THE major finding him determined, insisted upon attending him in his expedition, and they set out together for Presburg, where they privately arrived in the dark, resolving to keep themselves concealed at the house of a friend, until they should have formed some plan for their future operations. Here they were informed that count Trebasi's castle was altogether inaccessible; that all the servants who were supposed to have the least veneration or compassion for the countess, were dismissed; and that since Renaldo

naldo was known to be in Germany, the vigilance and caution of that cruel husband was redoubled to such a degree, that nobody knew whether his unfortunate lady was actually alive or dead.

Farrel perceiving Melville exceedingly affected with this intimation, and hearing him declare that he would never quit Presburg until he should have entered the house, and removed his doubts on that interesting subject; not only argued with great vehemence against such an attempt, as equally dangerous and indiscreet, but solemnly swore he would prevent his purpose, by discovering his design to the family, unless he would promise to listen to a more moderate and feasible expedient. He then proposed that he himself should appear in the equipage of one of the travelling Savoyards who stroll about Europe, amusing ignorant people with the effects of a magic lanthorn, and in that disguise endeavour to obtain admittance from the servants of Trebasi, among whom he might make such inquiries, as would deliver Melville from his present uneasy suspense.

This proposal was embraced, though reluctantly, by Renaldo, who was unwilling to expose his friend to the least danger or disgrace; and the major being next day provided with the habit and implements of his new profession, together with a ragged attendant who preceded him, extorting music from a paltry viole, approached the castle-gate, and proclaimed his shew so naturally in a yell partaking of the scream of Savoy and the howl of Ireland, that one would have imagined he had been conductor to madam Catherina from his cradle. So far his stratagem succeeded; he had not long stood in waiting, before he was invited into the court-yard, where the servants formed a ring, and danced to the efforts of his companion's skill; then he was conducted into the buttery, where he exhibited his figures on the wall, and his princess on the floor; and while they regaled him in this manner with scraps and sour wine, he took occasion

to inquire about the old lady and her daughter, before whom he said he had performed in his last peregrination. Though this question was asked with all that air of simplicity which is peculiar to these people, one of the domestics took the alarm, being infected with the suspicions of his master, and plainly taxed the major with being a spy, threatening at the same time that he should be stripped and searched.

This would have been a very dangerous experiment for the Hibernian, who had actually in his pocket a letter to the countess from her son, which he hoped fortune might have furnished him with an opportunity to deliver. When he therefore found himself in this dilemma, he was not at all easy in his own mind: however, instead of protesting his innocence in an humble and beseeching strain, in order to acquit himself of the charge, he resolved to elude the suspicion by provoking the wrath of his accuser, and putting on the air of vulgar integrity affronted, began to reproach the servant in very insolent terms for his unfair supposition, and undressing himself in a moment to the skin, threw his tattered garments in the face of his adversary, telling him he would find nothing there which he would not be very glad to part with; at the same time raising his voice, he, in the gibberish of the clan he represented, scolded and cursed with great fluency: so that the whole house resounded with the noise. The valet's jealousy, like a smaller fire, was in a trice swallowed up in the greater flame of his rage enkindled by this abrupt address; in consequence of which, Farrel was kicked out at the gate, naked as he was to the waist, after his lanthorn had been broke to pieces on his head; and there he was joined by his domestic, who had not been able to recover his apparel and effect a retreat, without incurring marks of the same sort of distinction.

The major considering the risk he must have run in being detected, thought himself cheaply quit for  
this

this moderate discipline, though he was really concerned for his friend Renaldo, who understanding the particulars of the adventure, determined, as the last effort, to ride round the castle in the open day, on pretence of taking the air, when peradventure the countess would see him from the place of her confinement, and favour him with some mark or token of her being alive.

Though his companion did not much relish this plan, which he foresaw would expose him to the insults of Trebasi; yet, as he could not contrive a better, he acquiesced in Renaldo's invention, with the proviso that he would defer the execution of it until his father-in-law should be absent in the chase, which was a diversion he every day enjoyed.

Accordingly they set a proper watch, and lay concealed until they were informed of Trebasi's having gone forth: when they mounted their horses, and rode into the neighbourhood of the castle. Having made a small excursion in the adjoining fields, they drew nearer the walls, and at an easy pace had twice circled them, when Farrel descried at the top of a tower, a white handkerchief waved by a woman's hand through the iron bars that secured the window. This signal being pointed out by Renaldo, his heart began to throb with great violence; he made a respectful obeisance towards the part in which it appeared, and perceiving the hand beckoning him to approach, advanced to the very buttress of the turret; upon which, seeing something drop, he alighted with great expedition, and took up a picture of his father in miniature, the features of which he no sooner distinguished, than the tears ran down his cheeks; he pressed the little image to his lips with the most filial fervour; then conveying it to his bosom, looked up to the hand, which waved in such a manner as gave him to understand it was high time to retire. Being by this time highly persuaded that his kind monitor was no other than the countess herself,

herself, he pointed to his heart, in token of his filial affection, and laying his hand on his sword to denote his resolution of doing her justice, he took his leave with another profound bow, and suffered himself to be reconducted to his lodging.

Every circumstance of this transaction was observed by the servants of count Trebasi, who immediately dispatched a messenger to their lord, with an account of what had happened. Alarmed at this information, from which he immediately concluded that the stranger was young Melville, he forthwith quitted the chace, and returning to the castle by a private postern, ordered his horse to be kept ready saddled, in hope that his son-in-law would repeat the visit to his mother. This precaution would have been to no purpose, had Renaldo followed the advice of Farrel, who represented the danger of returning to a place where the alarm was undoubtedly given by his first appearance; and exhorted him to return to Vienna for the prosecution of his suit, now that he was satisfied of his mother's being alive; in order to strengthen this admonition, he bade him recollect the signal for withdrawing, which was doubtless the effect of maternal concern, inspired by the knowledge of the count's vigilance and vindictive disposition.

Notwithstanding these suggestions, Melville persisted in his resolution of appearing once more below the tower, on the supposition that his mother, in expectation of his return, had prepared a billet for his acceptance, from which he might obtain important intelligence. The major seeing him lend a deaf ear to his remonstrances, was contented to attend him in this second expedition, which he pressed him to undertake that same afternoon, as Trebasi had taken care to circulate a report of his having gone to dine at the seat of a nobleman in the neighbourhood. Our knight-errant and his squire, deceived by his finess, presented themselves again under the prison of the countess, who no sooner beheld her son return, than she

She earnestly intreated him to be gone, by the same sign which she had before used; and he taking it for granted that she was debarred the use of pen, ink, and paper, and that he had nothing more to expect, consented to retire, and had already moved to some distance from the house, when, in crossing a small plantation that belonged to the castle, they were met by count Trebasi and another person on horseback.

At sight of this apparition, the blood mounted into Renaldo's cheeks, and his eyes began to lighten with eagerness and indignation; which was not at all diminished by the ferocious address of the count, who, advancing to Melville, with a menacing air, 'Before you proceed,' said he, 'I must know with what view you have been twice to-day patrolling round my inclosures, and reconnoitring the different avenues of my house: you likewise carry on a clandestine correspondence with some person in the family, of which my honour obliges me to demand an explanation.'

'Had your actions been always regulated by the dictates of honour, replied Renaldo, I should never have been questioned for riding round that castle which you know is my rightful inheritance; or excluded from the sight of a parent who suffers under your tyranny and oppression. It is my part, therefore, to expostulate; and since fortune hath favoured me with an opportunity of revenging our wrongs in person, we shall not part until you have learned that the family of the count de Melville is not to be injured with impunity. Here is no advantage on either side, in point of arms or number, you are better mounted than I am, and shall have the choice of the ground on which our difference ought to be brought to a speedy determination.'

Trebasi, whose courage was not of the sentimental kind, but purely owing to his natural insensibility of danger, instead of concerting measures coolly for the engagement, or making any verbal reply to this defiance,

fiance, drew a pistol without the least hesitation, and fired it at the face of Renaldo, part of whose left eyebrow was carried off by the ball. Melville was not slow in returning the compliment, which, as it was deliberate, proved the more decisive: for the shot entering the count's right breast, made its way to the back bone with such a shock, as struck him to the ground; upon which the other alighted, in order to improve the advantage he had gained.

During this transaction, Farrel had well nigh lost his life by the savage behaviour of Trebasi's attendant, who had been a hussar officer, and who thinking it was his duty to imitate the example of his patron on this occasion, discharged a pistol at the major before he had the least intimation of his design. The Hibernian's horse being a common hireling, and unaccustomed to stand fire, no sooner saw the flash of Trebasi's pistol, than starting aside, he happened to plunge into a hole, and was overturned at the very instant when the hussar's piece went off, so that no damage ensued to his rider, who pitching on his feet, flew with great nimbleness to his adversary, then laying hold on one leg, dismounted him in a twinkling, and seizing his throat as he lay, would have soon dispatched him without the use of fire-arms, had he not been prevented by his friend Renaldo, who desired him to desist, observing that his vengeance was already satisfied, as the count seemed to be in the agonies of death. The major was loth to quit his prey, as he thought his aggressor had acted in a treacherous manner; but recollecting that there was no time to lose, because, in all probability, the firing had alarmed the castle, he took his leave of the vanquished hussar, with a couple of hearty kicks, and mounting his horse, followed Melville to the house of a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who was kinsman to the countess, and very well disposed to grant him a secure retreat, until the troublesome



consequences of this rencounter should be overblown.

Trebasi, though to the young gentleman he seemed speechless and insensible, had neither lost the use of his reason, nor of his tongue, but affected that extremity, in order to avoid any further conversation with the victor. He was one of those people who never think of death until he knocks at the door, and then earnestly intreat him to excuse them for the present, and be so good as to call another time. The count had so often escaped unhurt, in the course of his campaigns, that he looked upon himself as invulnerable, and set all danger at defiance. Though he had hitherto taken no care of the concerns of his soul, he had a large fund of superstition at bottom; and when the surgeon who examined his wound, declared it was mortal, all the terrors of futurity took hold on his imagination, and all the misdemeanors of his life presented themselves in aggravated colours to his recollection.

He implored the spiritual assistance of a good priest in the neighbourhood, who, in the discharge of his own conscience, gave him to understand, that he had little mercy to expect, unless he would, as much as lay in his power, redress the injuries he had done to his fellow-creatures. As nothing lay heavier upon his soul than the cruelty and fraud he had practised upon the family of count Melville, he earnestly besought this charitable clergyman to mediate his pardon with the countess, and at the same time desired to see Renaldo before his death, that he might put him in possession of his paternal estate, and solicit his forgiveness for the offence he had given.

His lady, far from waiting for the priest's intercession, no sooner understood the lamentable situation of her husband, and found herself at liberty, than she hastened to his apartment, expressed the utmost concern for his misfortune, and tended him with truly conjugal tenderness and fidelity. Her son gladly  
obeyed

obeyed the summons, and was received with great civility and satisfaction by his father-in-law, who, in presence of the judge and divers gentlemen assembled for that purpose, renounced all right and title to the fortune he had so unjustly usurped; disclosed the name of the convent to which mademoiselle de Melville had been conveyed, dismissed all the agents of his iniquity, and being reconciled to his son-in-law, began to prepare himself in tranquillity for his latter end.

The countess was overwhelmed with an excess of joy, while she embraced her long lost son, who had proved himself so worthy of his father. Yet this joy was embittered, by reflecting that she was made a widow by the hands of that darling son: for, though she knew his honour demanded the sacrifice, she could not lay aside that regard and veneration which is attached to the name of husband; and therefore resolved to retire into a monastery, where she could spend the remainder of her life in devotion, without being exposed to any intercourse which might interfere with the delicacy of her sentiments on that subject.

#### C H A P. LIX.

*He is the messenger of happiness to his sister, who removes the film which had long obstructed his penetration, with regard to count Fathom.*

**A**S the most endearing affection had always subsisted between Renaldo and his sister, he would not one moment deny himself the pleasure of flying to her embrace, and of being the glad messenger of her deliverance. Soon, therefore, as he understood the place of her retreat, and had obtained a proper order to the abbess, signed by count Trebasi, he set out post for Vienna, still accompanied by his faithful Hibernian, and arriving at the convent, found the abbess and the whole house so engrossed in making preparations for the ceremony of giving the veil next day

day to a young woman who had fulfilled the term of her probation, that he could not possibly see his sister with that leisure and satisfaction which he had flattered himself with enjoying at this meeting; and therefore he was fain to bridle his impatience for two days, and keep his credentials until the hurry should be over, that mademoiselle might have no intimation of her good fortune, except from his own mouth.

In order to fill up this tedious interval, he visited his friends at court, who were rejoiced to hear the happy issue of his excursion to Presburg; the prince who was his particular patron desired he would make himself perfectly easy with regard to the death of count Trebass, for he would take care to represent him in such a light to the empress queen, as would screen him from any danger or prosecution on that account. His highness, moreover, appointed the following day for performing the promise he had made of presenting him to that august princess, and in the mean time prepossessed her so much in his favour, that when he approached her presence, and was announced by his noble introducer, she eyed him with a look of peculiar complacency, saying, 'I am glad to see you returned to my dominions. Your father was a gallant officer, who served our house with equal courage and fidelity; and as I understand you tread in his foot-steps, you may depend upon my favour and protection.'

He was so much overwhelmed with this gracious reception, that, while he bowed in silence, the drops of gratitude trickled from his eyes; and her imperial majesty was so well pleased with this manifestation of his heart, that she immediately gave directions for promoting him to the command of a troop of horse. — Thus fortune seemed willing and indeed eager to discharge the debt she owed him for the different calamities he had undergone. And as he looked upon the generous Hebrew to be the sole source of his suc-

cess, he did not fail to make him acquainted with the happy effects of his recommendation and friendship, and to express, in the warmest terms, the deep sense he had of his uncommon benevolence, which, by the bye, was still greater with regard to Renaldo, than the reader as yet imagines; for he not only furnished him with money for his present occasions, but also given him an unlimited credit on a banker in Vienna, to whom one of his letters was directed.

The ceremony of the nun's admission being now performed, and the convent restored to its former quiet, Melville hastened thither on the wings of brotherly affection, and presented his letter to the abbess, who having perused the contents, by which she learned that the family disquiets of count Trebasi no longer subsisted, and that the bearer was the brother of mademoiselle, she received him with great politeness, congratulated him on this happy event, and begging he would excuse her staying with him in the parlour, on pretence of business, withdrew, saying, she would immediately send in a young lady who would console him for her absence. In a few minutes he was joined by his sister, who, expecting nothing less than to see Renaldo, no sooner distinguished his features, than she shrieked aloud with surprize, and would have sunk upon the floor, had not he supported her in his embrace.

Such a sudden apparition of her brother at any time, or in any place, after their long separation, would have strongly affected this sensible young lady: but to find him so abruptly in a place where she thought herself buried from the knowledge of all her relations, occasioned such commotions in her spirits as had well-nigh endangered her reason: for it was not till after a considerable pause, that she could talk to him with connexion or coherence. However, as those transports subsided, they entered into a more deliberate and agreeable conversation; in the course of which, he gradually informed her of what had passed

passed at the castle; and inexpressible was the pleasure she felt in learning that her mother was released from captivity, herself restored to freedom, and her brother to the possession of his lawful inheritance, by the only means to which she had always prayed these blessings might be owing.

As she had been treated with uncommon humanity by the abbess, she would not consent to leave the convent until he should be ready to set out for Presburg; so that they dined together with that good lady, and passed the afternoon in that mutual communication with which a brother and sister may be supposed to entertain themselves on such an occasion. She gave him a detail of the insults and mortifications she had suffered from the brutality of her father-in-law, and told him, that her confinement in this monastery was owing to Trebasi's having intercepted a letter to her from Renaldo, signifying his intention to return to the empire, in order to assert his own right and redress her grievances. Then turning the discourse upon the incidents of his peregrinations, she in a particular manner inquired about that exquisite beauty who had been the innocent source of all his distresses, and upon whose perfections he had often, in his letters to his sister, expatiated with indications of rapture and delight.

This inquiry in a moment blew up that scorching flame which had been well nigh stifled by other necessary avocations. His eyes gleamed, his cheeks glowed and grew pale alternately, and his whole frame underwent an immediate agitation; which being perceived by mademoiselle, she concluded that some new calamity was annexed to the name of Monimia, and dreading to rip up a wound which she saw was so ineffectually closed, she for the present suppressed her curiosity and concern, and industriously endeavoured to introduce some less affecting subject of conversation. He saw her aim, approved of her discretion, and joining her endeavours, ex-

pressed his surprize at her having omitted to signify the least remembrance of her old favourite Fathom, whom he had left in England. He had no sooner pronounced this name than she suffered some confusion in her turn; from which, however, recollecting herself, 'Brother,' said she, 'you must endeavour to forget that wretch, who is altogether unworthy of retaining the smallest share of your regard.'

Astonished and indeed angry at this expression, which he considered as the effect of malicious misrepresentation, he gently chid her for her credulity in believing the envious aspersion of some person who repined at the superior virtue of Fathom, whom he affirmed to be an honour to the human species.

'Nothing is more easy,' replied the young lady, 'than to impose upon a person, who, being himself unconscious of guile, suspects no deceit. You have been a dupe, dear brother, not to the finesse of Fathom, but to the sincerity of your own heart. For my own part, I assume no honour to my own penetration in having comprehended the villainy of that impostor, which was discovered in more than one instance by accidents I could not possibly foresee.'

'You must know that Teresa, who attended me from my childhood, and in whose honesty I reposed such confidence, having disobliged some of the inferior servants, was so narrowly watched in all her transactions, as to be at last detected in the very act of conveying a piece of plate, which was actually found concealed among her clothes.'

'You may guess how much I was astonished when I understood this circumstance; I could not trust to the evidence of my own senses, and should have still believed her innocent, in spite of ocular demonstration, had not she, in the terrors of being tried for felony, promised to make a very material discovery to the countess, provided she would take such measures as would save her life.'

'This

' This request being complied with, she, in my hearing, opened up such an amazing scene of iniquity, baseness and ingratitude, which had been acted by her and Fathom, in order to defraud the family to which they were so much indebted, that I could not have believed the human mind capable of such degeneracy, or that traitor endowed with such pernicious cunning and dissimulation, had not her tale been congruous, consistent and distinct, and fraught with circumstances that left no room to doubt the least article of her confession: on consideration of which, she was permitted to go into voluntary exile.'

She then explained their combination in all the particulars, as we have already recounted them in their proper place; and, finally, observed, that the opinion she had hence conceived of Fathom's character, was confirmed by what she had since learned of his perfidious conduct towards that very nun who had lately taken the veil.

Perceiving her brother struck dumb with astonishment and gaping with the most eager attention, she proceeded to relate the incidents of his double intrigue with the jeweller's wife and daughter, as they were communicated to her by the nun, who was no other than the individual Wilhelmina. After those rivals had been forsaken by their gallant, their mutual animosities and chargin served to whet the attention and invention of each: so that in a little time the whole mystery stood disclosed to both. The mother had discovered the daughter's correspondence with Fathom, as we have formerly observed, by means of that unfortunate letter which he unwittingly committed to the charge of the old beldame; and as soon as she understood he was without the reach of all solicitation or persecution, imparted this billet to her husband, whose fury was so ungovernable, that he had almost sacrificed Wilhelmina with his own hands, especially when terrified by his threats and imprecations

tions, she owned that she had bestowed the chain on this perfidious lover. However, his dreadful purpose was prevented, partly by the interposition of his wife, whose aim was not the death but immurement of his daughter, and partly by the tears and supplication of the young gentlewoman herself, who protested, that, although the ceremony of the church had not been performed, she was contracted to Fathom by the most solemn vows, to witness which, she invoked all the saints in heaven.

The jeweller, upon cooler consideration, was unwilling to lose the least spark of hope that glittered among the ruins of his despair, and resisted all the importunities of his wife, who pressed him to consult the welfare of his daughter's soul, in the fond expectation of finding some expedient to lure back the chain and its possessor. In the mean time Wilhelmina was daily and hourly exposed to the mortifying animadversions of her mamma, who, with all the insolence of virtue, incessantly upbraided her with the backslidings of her vicious life, and exhorted her to reformation and repentance. This continual triumph lasted for many months, till at length a quarrel happening between the mother and the gossip at whose house she used to give the rendezvous to her admirers, that incensed confidante, in the precipitation of her anger, promulgated the history of those secret meetings, and among the rest, her interviews with Fathom were brought to light.

The first people who hear news of this sort, are generally those to whom they are most unwelcome. The German was soon apprised of his wife's frailty, and considered the two females of his house as a couple of devils incarnate, sent from hell to exercise his patience: yet, in the midst of his displeasure he found matter of consolation, in being furnished with a sufficient reason for parting with his help-mate, who had for many years kept his family in disquiet. He therefore, without hazarding a personal conference,

sent



sent proposals to her by a friend, which she did not think proper to reject : and seeing himself restored to the dominion of his own house, exerted his sway so tyrannically, that Welhelmina became weary of her life, and had recourse to the comforts of religion, of which she soon became enamoured, and begged her father's permission to dedicate the rest of her life to the duties of devotion. She was accordingly received in this convent : the regulations of which were so much to her liking, that she performed the task of probation with pleasure, and voluntarily excluded herself from the vanities of this life. It was here she had contracted an acquaintance with mademoiselle de Melville, to whom she communicated her complaints of Fathom, on the supposition that he was related to the count, as he himself had often declared :

While the young lady rehearsed the particulars of this detail, Renaldo sustained a strange vicissitude of different passions. Surprise, sorrow, fear, hope and indignation raised a most tumultuous conflict in his bosom. Monimia rushed upon his imagination in the character of innocence betrayed by the insinuations of treachery. He with horror viewed her at the mercy of a villian, who had broken all the ties of gratitude and honour.

Affrighted at the prospect, he started from his seat, exclaiming in the unconnected strain of distraction and despair : ' Have I then nourished a serpent in my bosom ! Have I listened to the voice of a traitor who hath murdered my peace ! who hath tore my heart-strings asunder, and perhaps ruined the pattern of all earthly perfection. It cannot be. Heaven would not suffer such infernal artifice to take effect ! The thunder would be levelled against the head of the accursed projector ! '

From this transport, compared with his agitation when she mentioned Monimia, his sister judged that Fathom had been the occasion of a breach between the two lovers ; and this conjecture being confirmed

by the disjointed answers he made to her interrogations upon the affair, she endeavoured to calm his apprehensions, by representing that he would soon have an opportunity of returning to England, where the misunderstanding might be easily cleared up; and that, in the mean time, he had nothing to fear on account of the person of his mistress, in a country where individuals were so well protected by the laws and constitution of the realm. At length he suffered himself to be flattered with the fond hope of seeing Monimia's character triumph in the inquiry; of retrieving that lost jewel, and of renewing that ravishing intercourse and exalted expectation which had been so cruelly cut off. He now wished to find Fathom as black as he had been exhibited, that Monimia's apostasy might be numbered among the misrepresentations of his treachery and fraud.

His love, which was alike generous and ardent, espoused the cause, and he no longer doubted her constancy and virtue: but when he reflected how her tender heart must have been wrung with anguish at his unkindness and cruelty, in leaving her destitute in a foreign land; how her sensibility must have been tortured in finding herself altogether dependent upon a ruffian, who certainly harboured the most baleful designs upon her honour; how her life must be endangered both by his barbarity and her own despair: I say, when he reflected on these circumstances, he shuddered with horror and dismay; and that very night dispatched a letter to his friend the Jew, intreating him, in the most pressing manner, to employ all his intelligence in learning the situation of the fair orphan, that she might be protected from the villany of Fathom, until his return to England.

## C H A P. LX.

*He recompenses the attachment of his friend : and receives a letter that reduces him to the verge of death and distraction.*

THIS step being taken, his mind in some measure retrieved its former tranquillity ; he soothed himself with the prospect of an happy reconciliation with the divine Monimia, and his fancy was decoyed from every disagreeable presage by the entertaining conversation of his sister, with whom in two days he set out for Presburg, attended by his friend the major, who had never quitted him since their meeting at Brussels. Here they found count Trebasi entirely rid of the fever which had been occasioned by his wound, and in a fair way of doing well : a circumstance that afforded unspeakable pleasure to Melville, whose manner of thinking was such, as would have made him unhappy, could he have charged himself with the death of his mother's husband, howsoever criminal he might have been.

The count's ferocity did not return with his health ; his eyes were opened by the danger he had incurred, and his sentiments turned in a new channel : he heartily asked pardon of mademoiselle for the rigorous usage she had suffered from the violence of his temper ; thanked Renaldo for the seasonable lesson he had administered to him ; and not only insisted upon being removed from the castle to an house of his own in Presburg, but proffered to make immediate restitution of all the rents which he had unjustly converted to his own use.

These things being settled in the most amicable manner, to the entire satisfaction of the parties concerned, as well as of the neighbouring noblesse, among whom the house of Melville was in universal esteem, Renaldo resolved to solicit leave at the imperial court to return to England, in order to investigate

that affair of Monimia, which was more interesting than all the points he had hitherto adjusted: but, before he quitted Presburg, his friend Farrel taking him aside one day, 'Count,' said he, 'will you give me leave to ask, if by my zeal and attachment for you, I have had the good fortune to acquire your esteem?' 'To doubt that esteem,' replied Renaldo, 'were to suspect my gratitude and honour, of which I must be utterly destitute before I lose the sense of those obligations I owe to your gallantry and friendship: obligations which I long for a proper occasion to repay.'

'Well then,' resumed the major, 'I will deal with you like a downright Swiss, and point out a method by which you may shift the load of obligation from your own shoulders to mine. You know my birth, rank, and expectations in the service: but perhaps you do not know, that as my expence has always unavoidably exceeded my income, I find myself a little out at elbows in my circumstances, and want to piece them up by matrimony. Of those ladies with whom I think I have any chance of succeeding, mademoiselle de Melville seems the best qualified to render my situation happy in all respects. Her fortune is more than sufficient to disembarraßs my affairs; her good sense will be a seasonable check upon my vivacity; her agreeable accomplishments will engage a continuation of affection and regard; I know my own disposition well enough to think I shall become a most dutiful and tractable husband; and shall deem myself highly honoured in being more closely united to my dear count de Melville, the son and representative of that worthy officer under whom my youth was formed: if you will therefore sanction my claim, I will forthwith begin my approaches, and doubt not, under your auspices, to bring the place to a capitulation.'

Renaldo was pleased with the frankness of this declaration,

claration, approved of his demand, and desired him to depend upon his good offices with his sister, whom he founded that same evening upon the subject, recommending the major to her favour, as a gentleman well worthy of her choice. Mademoiselle, who had never been exercised in the coquetries of her sex, and was now arrived at those years, when the vanity of youth ought to yield to discretion, considered the proposal as a philosopher, and after due deliberation candidly owned she had no objection to the match. Farrel was accordingly introduced in the character of a lover, after the permission of the countess had been obtained; and he carried on his addresses in the usual form, so much to the satisfaction of all concerned in the event, that a day was appointed for the celebration of his nuptials, when he entered into peaceable possession of his prize.

A few days after this joyful occasion, while Renaldo was at Vienna, where he had been indulged with leave of absence for six months, and employed in making preparations for his journey to Britain, he was one evening presented by his servant with a packet from London, which he no sooner opened, than he found inclosed a letter directed to him, in the hand-writing of Monimia. He was so much affected at sight of those well-known characters, that he stood motionless as a statue, eager to know the contents, yet afraid to peruse the billet. While he hesitated in this suspense, he chanced to cast his eye on the inside of the cover, and perceived the name of his Jewish friend at the bottom of a few lines, importing that the inclosed was delivered to him by a physician of his acquaintance, who had recommended it in a particular manner to his care. This intimation served only to increase the mystery, and whet his impatience; and as he had the explanation in his hand, he summoned all his resolution to his aid, and breaking the seal, began to read these words; ' Renaldo will not suppose that this address proceeds  
from

‘ from interested motives, when he learns, that before  
 ‘ it can be presented to his view, the unfortunate  
 ‘ Monimia will be no more.’

Here the light forsook Renaldo’s eyes, his knees  
 knocked together, and he fell at full length insensible  
 on the floor: his valet hearing the noise, ran into the  
 apartment, lifted him upon a couch, and dispatched  
 a messenger for proper assistance, while he himself  
 endeavoured to recal his spirits by such applications  
 as chance afforded: but before the count exhibited  
 any signs of life, his brother-in-law entered his cham-  
 ber by accident, and as soon as he recollected him-  
 self from the extreme confusion and concern produ-  
 ced by this melancholy spectacle, he perceived the  
 fatal epistle which Melville, though insensible, still  
 kept within his grasp; justly suspecting this to be  
 the cause of that severe paroxysm, he drew near the  
 couch, and with difficulty read what is above re-  
 hearded, and the sequel, to this effect:

‘ Yes, I have taken such measures as will prevent  
 ‘ it from falling into your hands, until after I shall  
 ‘ have been released from a being imbittered with  
 ‘ inexpressible misery and anguish. It is not my in-  
 ‘ tention, once loved, and ah! still too fondly re-  
 ‘ membered youth! to upbraid you as the source of  
 ‘ that unceasing woe which hath been so long the sole  
 ‘ inhabitant of my lonely bosom. I will not call  
 ‘ you inconstant or unkind. I dare not think you  
 ‘ base or dishonourable; yet I was abruptly sacrificed  
 ‘ to a triumphant rival, before I had learned to bear  
 ‘ such mortification; before I had overcome the  
 ‘ prejudices which I had imbibed in my father’s  
 ‘ house, I was all at once abandoned to despair, to  
 ‘ indigence and distress, to the vile practices of a  
 ‘ villain; who, I fear, hath betrayed us both. What  
 ‘ have not I suffered from the insults and vicious  
 ‘ designs of that wretch whom you cherished in your  
 ‘ bosom! yet to these I owe this near approach to  
 ‘ that goal of peace, where the canker-worm of sor-  
 ‘ row

row will expire. Beware of that artful traitor; and oh! endeavour to overcome that levity of disposition, which, if indulged, will not only stain your reputation, but also debauch the good qualities of your heart. I release you, in the sight of heaven, from all obligations: if I have been injured, let not my wrongs be visited on the head of Renaldo, for whom shall be offered up the last fervent prayers of the hapless Monimia.'

This letter was a clue to the labyrinth of Melville's distress: though the major had never heard him mention the name of this beauty, he had received such hints from his own wife, as enabled him to comprehend the whole of the count's disaster. By the administration of stimulating medicines, Renaldo recovered his perception: but this was a cruel alternative, considering the situation of his thoughts. The first word he pronounced was Monimia, with all the emphasis of the most violent despair: he perused the letter, and poured forth incoherent execrations against Fathom and himself. He exclaimed in a frantic tone, 'She is lost for ever! murdered by my unkindness! we are both undone by the infernal arts of Fathom! execrable monster! Restore her to my arms. If thou art not a fiend in reality, I will tear out thy false heart!'

So saying, he sprung upon his valet, who would have fallen a sacrifice to his undistinguishing fury, had not he been saved by the interposition of Farrel and the family, who disengaged him from his master's gripe by dint of force; yet, notwithstanding their joint endeavours, he broke from this restraint, leaped upon the floor, and seizing his sword, attempted to plunge it in his own breast. When he was once more overcome by numbers, he cursed himself, and all those who withheld him; swore he would not survive the fair victim who had perished by his credulity and indiscretion; and the agitation of his spirits increased to such a degree, that he was seized with

with strong convulsions, which nature was scarce able to sustain: every medical expedient was used to quiet this perturbation, which at length yielded so far as to subside into a continual fever, and confirmed delirium, during which he ceased not to pour forth the most pathetic complaints touching his ruined love, and to rave about the ill-starred Monimia. The major, half-distracted by the calamity of his friend, would have concealed it from the knowledge of his family, had not the physician, by despairing of his life, laid him under the necessity of making them acquainted with his condition.

The counsellors and Mrs. Faircl were no sooner informed of his case, than they halted to the melancholy scene, where they found Renaldo deprived of his senses, panting under the rage of an exasperated disease. They saw his face distorted, and his eyes glaring with frenzy: they heard him invoke the name of Monimia, with a tenderness of accent, which even the impulse of madness could not destroy.—Then, with a sudden transition of tone and gesture, he denounced vengeance against her betrayer, and called upon the north wind to cool the fervour of his brain. His hair hung in dishevelled parcels, his cheeks were wan, his looks ghastly, his vigour was fled, and all the glory of his youth faded: the physician hung his head in silence, the attendants wrung their hands in despair, and the countenance of his friend was bathed in tears.

Such a picture would have moved the most obdurate heart: what impression then must it have made upon a parent and sister, melting with all the enthusiasm of affection! The mother was struck dumb, and stupified with grief: the sister threw herself on the bed in a transport of sorrow, caught her loved Renaldo in her arms, and was with great difficulty tore from his embrace. Such was the dismal reverse that overtook the late so happy family of Melville;

such



Such was the extremity to which the treachery of Fathom had reduced his best benefactor!

Three days did nature struggle with surprising efforts, and then the constitution seemed to sink under the victorious fever; yet, as his strength diminished, his delirium abated, and on the fifth morning he looked round, and recognized his weeping friends. Tho' now exhausted to the lowest ebb of his life, he retained the perfect use of speech, and his reason being quite unclouded, spoke to each with equal kindness and composure: he congratulated himself upon the sight of shore, after the horrors of such a tempest; called upon the countess and his sister, who were not permitted to see him at such a conjuncture, and being apprized by the major of his reason for excluding them from his presence, he applauded his concern, bequeathed them to his future care, and took leave of that gentleman with a cordial embrace. Then he desired to be left in private with a certain clergyman, who regulated the concerns of his soul; and he being dismissed, turned his face from the light, in expectation of his final discharge: in a few minutes all was still and dreary; he was no longer heard to breathe, no more the stream of life was perceived to circulate; he was supposed to be absolved from all his cares, and an universal groan from the bye-standers announced the decease of the gallant, generous, and tender-hearted Rinaldo.

'Come hither, ye whom the pride of youth and health, of birth and affluence inflames; who tread the flowery maze of pleasure, trusting to the fruition of ever-circling joys: ye who glory in your accomplishments, who indulge the views of ambition, and lay schemes for future happiness and grandeur: contemplate here the vanity of life: behold how low this excellent young man is laid! mowed down even in the blossom of his youth, when fortune seemed to open all her treasures to his worth!'

Such were the reflections of the generous Farrel, who, while he performed the last office of friendship,

in closing the eyes of the much-lamented Melville, perceived a warmth on the skin, which the hand of death seldom leaves unextinguished: this uncommon sensation he reported to the physician, who, though he could feel no pulsation in the heart or arteries, conjectured that life still lingered in some of its interior haunts, and immediately ordered such applications to the extremities and surface of the body, as might help to concentrate and reinforce the natural heat.

By these prescriptions, which, for some time, produced no sensible effect, the embers were, in all probability, kept glowing, and the vital power revived; for, after a considerable pause, respiration was gradually renewed at long intervals, a languid motion was perceived at the heart, a few feeble and irregular pulsations were felt at the wrist; the clay-coloured livery of death began to vanish from his face; the circulation acquired new force, and he opened his eyes with a sigh, which proclaimed his return from the shades of death.

When he recovered the faculty of swallowing, a cordial was administered; and whether the fever abated, in consequence of the blood's being cooled and condensed during the recess of action in the solids, or nature, in that agony, had prepared a proper channel for the expulsion of the disease; certain it is, he was, from this moment, rid of all bodily pain, he retrived the animal functions, and nothing remained of his malady but an extreme weakness and languor, the effect of nature's being fatigued in the battle she had won.

Unutterable was the joy that took possession of his mother and sister, when Farrel flew into their apartment, to intimate this happy turn. Scarce could they be restrained from pouring forth their transports in the presence of Renaldo, who was still too feeble to endure such communication: indeed he was extremely mortified and dejected at this event, which had diffused such pleasure and satisfaction among his friends; for though his distemper was mastered, the fatal cause

of

of it still rankled at his heart, and he considered this respite from death as a protraction of his misery.

When he was congratulated by the major on the triumph of his constitution, he replied, with a groan, 'I would to heaven it had been otherwise; for I am reserved for all the horrors of the most poignant sorrow and remorse. O Monimia! Monimia! I hoped by this time to have convinced thy gentle shade, that I was, at least intentionally, innocent of that ruthless barbarity which hath brought thee to an untimely grave. Heaven and earth! do I still survive the consciousness of that dire catastrophe! and lives the atrocious villain who hath blasted all our hopes!'

With these last words, the fire darted from his eyes, and his brother, snatching this occasional handle for reconciling him to life, joined in his exclamations against the treacherous Fathom, and observed, that he should not, in point of honour, wish to die, until he should have sacrificed that traitor to the manes of the beautiful Monimia. This incitement acted as a spur upon exhausted nature, causing the blood to circulate with fresh vigour, and encouraging him to take such sustenance as would recruit his strength, and repair the damage which his health had sustained.

His sister assiduously attended him in his recovery, flattering his appetite, and amusing his sorrow at the same time; the clergyman assailed his despondence with religious weapons, as well as with arguments drawn from philosophy; and the fury of his passions being already expended, he became so tractable as to listen to his remonstrances: but notwithstanding the joint endeavours of all his friends, a deep-fixed melancholy remained, after every consequence of his disease had vanished: in vain they essayed to elude his grief by gaiety and diversions; in vain they tried to decoy his heart into some new engagement.

These kind attempts served only to feed and nourish that melancholy which pined within his bosom. Monimia still haunted him in the midst of these amusements,

ments, while his reflection whispered to him, 'pleasures like these I might have relished with her participation.' That darling idea mingled in all the female assemblies at which he was present, eclipsing their attractions; and enhancing the bitterness of his loss; for absence, enthusiasm, and even his despair had heightened the charms of the fair orphan into something supernatural and divine.

Time, that commonly weakens the traces of remembrance, seemed to deepen its impressions in his breast; nightly, in his dreams, did he converse with his dear Monimia: sometimes on the verdant bank of a delightful stream, where he breathed, in soft murmurs, the dictates of his love and admiration: sometimes reclined within the tufted grove, his arm encircled and sustained her snowy neck; whilst she, with looks of love ineffable, gazed on his face, invoking heaven to bless her husband and her lord: yet, even in these illusions, was his fancy oft alarmed for the ill-fated fair: sometimes he viewed her tottering on the brink of a steep precipice, far distant from his helping hand: at other times she seemed to sail along the boisterous tide, imploring his assistance: then would he start with horror from his sleep, and feel his sorrows more than realized: he deserted his couch: he avoided the society of mankind: he courted sequestered shades, where he could indulge his melancholy; there his mind brooded over his calamity, until his imagination became familiar with all the ravages of death; it contemplated the gradual decline of Monimia's health; her tears, her distress her despair at his imagined cruelty; he saw through that perspective, every blossom of her beauty wither, every sparkle vanish from her eyes: he beheld her faded lips, her pale cheek, and her inanimated features, the symmetry of which, not death itself was able to destroy. His fancy conveyed her breathless corse to the cold grave, o'er which, perhaps, no tear humane was shed, where her delicate

limbs

limbs were consigned to dust, where she was dished out a delicious banquet to the unsparing worm.

Over these pictures he dwelt with a sort of pleasing anguish, until he became so enamoured of her tomb, that he could no longer resist the desire which compelled him to make a pilgrimage to the dear hallowed spot, where all his once gay hopes lay buried; that he might nightly visit the silent habitation of his ruined love, embrace the sacred earth with which she was now compounded, moisten it with his tears, and bid the turf lie easy on her breast. Besides the prospect of this gloomy enjoyment, he was urged to return to England, by an eager desire of taking vengeance on the perfidious Fathom, as well as of acquitting himself of the obligations he owed in that kingdom, to those who had assisted him in his distress. He therefore communicated his intention to Farrel, who would have insisted upon attending him in the journey, had not he been conjured to stay and manage Renaldo's affairs in his absence. Every previous step being taken, he took leave of the countess and his sister, who had, with all their interest and eloquence, opposed his design, the execution of which, they justly feared, would, instead of dissipating, augment his chagrin; and now, seeing him determined, they shed a flood of tears at his departure, and he set out from Vienna in a post-chaise, accompanied by a trusty valet de chambre on horseback.

## C H A P. LXI.

*Renaldo meets with a living monument of justice, and encounters a personage of some note in these memoirs.*

**A** S this domestick was very well qualified for making all the proper dispositions, and adjusting every necessary article on the road, Renaldo totally abstracted himself from earthly considerations, and mused without ceasing on that theme which was the constant subject of his contemplation. He was blind to the ob-  
jects

jects that surrounded him; he scarce ever felt the importunities of nature; and had not they been reinforced by the pressing entreaties of his attendant, he would have proceeded without refreshment or repose. In this absence of mind did he traverse a great part of Germany, in his way to the Austrian Netherlands, and arrived at the fortress of Luxemburg, where he was obliged to tarry a whole day on account of an accident which had happened to his chaise. Here he went to view the fortification; and as he walked along the ramparts, his ears were saluted with these words, 'Heaven bless the noble count de Melville! will not he turn the eyes of compassion upon an old fellow-soldier reduced to misfortune and disgrace?'

Surprised at this address, which was attended with the clanking of chains, Renaldo lifted up his eyes, and perceived the person who spoke, to be one of two malefactors shackled together, who had been sentenced for some crime to work as labourers on the fortifications: his face was so covered with hair, and his whole appearance so disguised by the squalid habit which he wore, that the count could not recollect his features, until he gave him to understand that his name was Ratchkali. Melville immediately recognized his fellow student at Vienna and his brother volunteer upon the Rhine, and expressed equal surprize and concern at seeing him in such a deplorable situation.

Nothing renders the soul so callous and insensible as the searing brands of infamy and disgrace. Without betraying the least symptoms of shame or confusion, 'Count,' says he, 'this is the fate of war, at least of the war in which I have been engaged, ever since I took leave of the imperial army, and retreated with your old companion Fathom. Long life to that original genius! If he is not unhappily eclipsed by some unfortunate interposition, before his terrene parts are purified, I foresee that he

will

## FERDINAND Count FATHOM. 71

' will shine a star of the first magnitude in the world of adventure.'

At mention of this detested name, Renaldo's heart began to throb with indignation; yet he suppressed the emotion, and desired to know the meaning of that splendid encomium, which he had bestowed upon his confederate. 'It would be quite unnecessary,' replied RatchKali, 'for a man in my present situation to equivocate or disguise the truth: the nature of my disgrace is perfectly well known. I am condemned to hard labour for life; and unless some lucky accident (which I cannot now foresee) shall intervene, all I can expect is some alleviation of my hard lot from the generosity of such gentlemen as you who compassionate the sufferings of your fellow creatures. In order to engage this benevolence the more in my behalf, I shall (if you will give me the hearing) faithfully inform you of some particulars, which it may import you to know, concerning my old acquaintance Ferdinand count Fathom, whose real character hath perhaps hitherto escaped your notice.'

Then he proceeded to give a regular detail of all the strokes of finesse which he, in conjunction with our adventurer, had practised upon Melville and others, during their residence at Vienna, and the campaigns they had made upon the Rhine: he explained the nature of the robbery which was supposed to have been done by the count's valet, together with the manner of their desertion: he described his separation from Fathom, their meeting at London, the traffic they carried on in co-partnership: and the misfortune that reduced Ferdinand to the condition in which he was found by Melville.

'After having gratified the honest lawyer,' said he, 'with a share of the unfortunate Fathom's spoils, and packed up all my own valuable effects, my new auxiliary Maurice and I posted to Harwicl  
' embark

embarked in the packet-boat, and next day arrived at Helvoetsluys; from thence we repaired to the Hague, in order to mingle in the gaieties of the place, and exercise our talents at play, which is there cultivated with universal eagerness: but, chancing to meet with an old acquaintance, whom I did not at all desire to see, I found it convenient to withdraw softly to Rotterdam; from whence we set out for Antwerp; and having made a tour of the Austrian Netherlands, set up our rest at Brussels, and concerted a plan for laying the Flemings under contribution.

From our appearance we procured admission into the most polite assemblies, and succeeded to a wonder in all our operations; until our career was unfortunately checked by the indiscretion of my ally, who, being detected in the very act of conveying a card, was immediately introduced to a magistrate: and this minister of justice was so curious, inquisitive, and clear-sighted, that count Maurice, finding it impossible to elude his penetration, was fain to stipulate for his own safety, by giving up his friend to the cognizance of the law. I was accordingly apprehended, before I knew the cause of my arrest; and being unhappily known by some soldiers of the prince's guard, my character turned out so little to the approbation of the inquisitors, that all my effects were confiscated for the benefit of the state, and I was by a formal sentence condemned to labour on the fortifications all the days of my life; while Maurice escaped at the expence of five hundred stripes, which he received in public from the hands of the common executioner.

Thus have I, without evasion or mental reservation, given a faithful account of the steps by which I have arrived at this barrier, which is likely to be the *ne plus ultra* of my peregrinations, unless the generous count de Melville will deign to interpose,

his



his interest in behalf of an old fellow-soldier, who  
may yet live to justify his mediation.'

Renaldo had no reason to doubt the truth of this story, every circumstance of which tended to corroborate the intelligence he had already received touching the character of Fathom, whom he now considered with a double portion of abhorrence, as the most abandoned miscreant that nature had ever produced. Though Ratchkali did not possess a much higher place in his opinion, he favoured him with marks of his bounty, and exhorted him, if possible, to reform his heart; but he would by no means promise to interpose his credit in favour of a wretch self-convicted of such enormous villainy and fraud. He could not help moralizing upon this recounter, which inspired him with great contempt for human nature: and next day he proceeded on his journey with a heavy heart, ruminating on the perfidy of mankind, and between whiles transported with the prospect of revenging all his calamities upon the accursed author.

While he was wrapped up in these reveries, his carriage rolled along, and had already entered a wood between Mons and Tournay, when his dream was suddenly interrupted by the explosion of several pistols that were fired among the thickets at a little distance from the road. Roused at this alarm, he snatched his sword that stood by him, and springing from the chaise, ran directly towards the spot, being close followed by his valet, who had alighted and armed himself with a pistol in each hand. About forty yards from the highway they arrived in a little glade or opening, where they saw a single man standing at bay against five banditti, after having killed one of their companions, and lost his own horse that lay dead upon the ground.

Melville seeing this odds, and immediately guessing their design, rushed among them without hesitation, and in an instant ran his sword through the heart of one whose hand was raised to smite the gen-

gentleman behind, while he was engaged with the rest in front. At the same time the valet disabled another by a shot in the shoulder; so that the number being now equal on both sides, a furious combat ensued, every man being paired with an antagonist, and each having recourse to swords, as all their pieces had been discharged. Renaldo's adversary finding himself pressed with equal fury and skill, retreated gradually among the trees, until he vanished altogether into the thickest of the wood: and his two companions followed his example with great ease, the valet de chambre being hurt in the leg, and the stranger so much exhausted by the wounds he had received before Renaldo's interposition, that when the young gentleman approached to congratulate him on the defeat of the robbers, he, in advancing to embrace his deliverer, dropt down motionless on the grass.

The count, with that warmth of sympathy and benevolence which was natural to his heart, lifted up the wounded cavalier in his arms, and carried him to the chaise, in which he was deposited, while the valet de chambre reloaded his pistols, and prepared for a second attack, as they did not doubt that the banditti would return with a reinforcement. However, before they re-appeared, Renaldo's driver disengaged him from the wood, and in less than a quarter of an hour they arrived at a village, where they halted for assistance to the stranger, who though still alive, had not recovered the use of his senses.

After he was undressed, and laid in a warm bed, a surgeon examined his body, and found a wound in his neck by a sword, and another in his right side occasioned by a pistol-shot; so that his prognostic was very dubious: mean while he applied proper dressings to both; and in half an hour after this administration, the gentleman gave some tokens of perception. He looked around him with a wildness of fury in his aspect, as if he had thought himself in the hands

hands of the robbers by whom he had been attacked : but when he saw the assiduity with which the bystanders exerted themselves in his behalf, one raising his head from the pillow, while another exhorted him to swallow a little wine which was warmed for the purpose ; when he beheld the sympathising looks of all present, and heard himself accosted in the most cordial terms by the person whom he recollected as his deliverer, all the severity vanished from his countenance ; he took Renaldo's hand and pressed it to his lips ; and while the tears gushed from his eyes, ' Praised be God,' said he, ' that virtue and generosity are still to be found among the sons of men.'

Every body in the apartment was affected by this exclamation ; and Melville, above all the rest, felt such emotions as he could scarcely restrain. He intreated the gentleman to believe himself in the midst of such friends as would effectually secure him from all violence and mortification ; he conjured him to compose the perturbation of his spirits, and quiet the apprehensions of his mind with that reflection ; and protested that he himself would not quit the house while his attendance should be deemed necessary for the stranger's cure, or his conversation conducive to his amusement.

These assurances considered, with the heroic part which the young Hungarian had already acted in his behalf, inspired the cavalier with such a sublime idea of Melville, that he gazed upon him with silent astonishment, as an angel sent from heaven for his succour ; and in the transport of his gratitude, could not help exclaiming, ' Sure providence hath still something in reserve for this unfortunate wretch, in whose favour such a miracle of courage and generosity hath interposed !'

Being accommodated with proper care and attendance, his constitution in a little time overcame the fever ; and at the third dressing, the surgeon declared him out of all danger from his wounds. There was

Renaldo indulged with opportunities of conversing with the patient, and of inquiring into the particulars of his fortune and designs in life, with a view to manifest the inclination he felt to serve him in his future occasions.

The more this stranger contemplated the character of the count, the more his amazement increased, on account of his extraordinary benevolence in favour of a person whose merit he could not possibly know; he even expressed his surprize on this subject to Renaldo, who at length told him, that although his best offices should always be ready for the occasions of any gentleman in distress, his particular attachment and regard to him was improved by an additional consideration: 'I am no stranger,' said he, 'to the virtues and honour of the gallant Don Diego de Zelos.'

'Heaven and earth!' cried the stranger, starting from his seat with extreme emotion, 'do I then live to hear myself addressed by that long lost appellation! my heart glows at the expression! my spirits are kindled with a flame that thrills through every nerve! Say, young gentleman, if you are really an inhabitant of earth, by what means are you acquainted with the unhappy name of Zelos?'

In answer to this eager interrogation, Renaldo gave him to understand, that in the course of his travels, he had resided a short time at Seville, where he had frequently seen Don Diego, and often heard his character mentioned with uncommon esteem and veneration. 'Alas!' replied the Castilian, 'that justice is no longer done to the wretched Zelos; his honours are blasted, and his reputation canker-bitten by the venomous tooth of slander.'

He then proceeded to unfold his misfortunes, as before explained; at the recapitulation of which, the heart of Melville being intendered by his own calamities, was so deeply affected, that he re-echoed

the

the groans of Don Diego, and wept over his sufferings with the most filial sympathy. When he repeated the story of that cruel fraud, which was practised upon him by the faithless Fadini, Melville, whose mind and imagination teemed with the villainies of Fathom, was immediately struck with the conjecture of his being the knave; because, indeed, he could not believe that any other person was so abandoned, by principle and humanity, as to take such a barbarous advantage of a gentleman in distress.

## C H A P. LXII.

*His return to England, and midnight pilgrimage to Monimia's tomb.*

HE considered the date of that unparalleled transaction, which agreed with his conjecture, and from the inquiries he made concerning the person of the traitor, gathered reasons sufficient to confirm his supposition. Thus certified, 'That is the villain,' cried the count, 'whose infernal arts have overwhelmed me with such misery as heaven itself hath no remedy to dispel! To revenge my wrongs on that perfidious miscreant, is one of the chief reasons for which I deign to drag about an hateful being. O Don Diego! what is life, when all its enjoyments are so easily poisoned by the machinations of such a worm!' So saying, he smote his breast in all the agony of woe, and besought the Spaniard to relate the steps he took in consequence of this disaster.

The Castilian's cheeks reddened at this information, which reinforced his own resentment, and casting up his eyes to heaven, 'Sacred powers!' cried he, 'let him not perish, before you bring him within my reach. You ask me, noble cavalier, what measures I took in this abyss of misery. For the first day I was tortured with apprehensions for the friendly Fadini, fearing that he had been robbed

and murdered for the jewels which he had, perhaps, too unwarily exposed to sale: but this terror soon vanished before the true presages of my fate; when, on the morrow, I found the whole family in tears and confusion, and heard my landlord pour forth the most bitter imprecations against the fugitive who had deflowered his daughter, and even robbed the house. You will ask, which of the passions of my heart were interested on this occasion; they were shame and indignation; all my grief flowed in another channel; I blushed to find my judgment deceived: I scorned to complain; but in my heart denounced vengeance against my base betrayer. I silently retired to my apartment, in order to commune with my own thoughts.

I had bore greater calamities without being driven to despair: I summoned all my fortitude to my assistance, and resolved to live in spite of affliction. Thus determined, I betook myself to the house of a general officer, whose character was fair in the world; and having obtained admission in consequence of my oriental appearance, ‘To a man of honour,’ said I, ‘the unfortunate need no introduction: my habit proclaims me a Persian; this passport from the States of Holland will confirm that supposition. I have been robbed of jewels to a considerable value, by a wretch whom I have favoured with my confidence; and now reduced to extreme indigence, I come to offer myself as a soldier in the armies of France. I have health and strength sufficient to discharge that duty: nor am I unacquainted with a military life, which was once my glory and occupation. I therefore sue for your protection, that I may be received, though in the lowest order of them that serve the king; and that your future favour may depend upon my behaviour in that capacity.’

The general, surprized at my declaration, surveyed me with uncommon attention; he perused my certificate,

ficatc, asked divers questions concerning the art of war, to which I returned such answers as convinced him that I was not wholly ignorant in that particular. In short, I was enlisted as a volunteer in his own regiment, and soon after promoted to the rank of a subaltern, and the office of equerry to his own son, who at that time had attained to the degree of colonel, though his age did not exceed eighteen years.

This young man was naturally of a ferocious disposition, which had been rendered quite untractable by the pride of birth and fortune, together with the licence of his education. As he did not know the respect due to a gentleman, so he could not possibly pay it to those who were unfortunately under his command. Divers mortifications I sustained with that fortitude which became a Castilian who lay under obligations to the father; till at length, laying aside all decorum, he smote me. Sacred heaven! he smote don Diego de Zelos, in presence of his whole household.

Had my sword been endowed with sensation, it would of itself have started from the scabbard, at this indignity offered to its master. I unsheathed it without deliberation, saying, 'Know, insolent boy, he is a gentleman whom thou hast thus outraged; and thou hast cancelled the ties which have hitherto restrained my indignation.' His servants would have interposed, but he commanded them to retire; and flushed with that confidence which the impetuosity of his temper inspired, he drew, in his turn, and attacked me with redoubled rage; but his dexterity being very unequal to his courage, he was soon disarmed and overthrown; when pointing my sword to his breast, 'In consideration of thy youth and ignorance,' said I, 'I spare that life which thou hast forfeited by thy ungenerous presumption.'

With these words I put up my weapon, retired through the midst of his domestics, who seeing their master safe, did not think proper to oppose my passage,

sage, and mounting my horse, in less than two hours entered the Austrian dominions, resolving to proceed as far as Holland, that I might embark in the first ship for Spain, in order to wash away, with my own blood, or that of my enemies, the cruel stain which hath so long defiled my reputation.

This was the grievance that still corroded my heart, and rendered ineffectual the inhuman sacrifice I had made to my injured honour. This was the consideration that incessantly prompted, and still importuned me to run every risque of life and fortune, rather than leave my fame under such an ignominious aspersions. I purpose to obey this internal call. I am apt to believe it is the voice of heaven; of that providence which manifested its care by sending such a generous auxiliary to my aid, when I was overpowered by banditti, on the very first day of my expedition.

Having in this manner gratified the curiosity of his deliverer, he expressed a desire of knowing the quality of him to whom he was so signally obliged; and Renaldo did not scruple to make the Castilian acquainted with his name and family: he likewise communicated the story of his unfortunate love, with all the symptoms of unutterable woe, which drew tears from the noble-hearted Spaniard, while with a groan that announced the load which overwhelmed his soul, 'I had a daughter,' said he, 'such as you describe the peerless Monimia; had heaven decreed her for the arms of such a lover, I, who am now the most wretched, should have been the most happy parent upon earth.'

Thus did these new friends alternately indulge their mutual sorrow, and concert measures for their future operations. Melville earnestly solicited the Castilian to favour him with his company to England, where, in all probability, both would enjoy the gloomy satisfaction of being revenged upon their common betrayer Fathom; and as a farther inducement,



ment, he assured him, that as soon as he should have accomplished the melancholy purposes of his voyage, he would accompany don Diego to Spain, and employ his whole interest and fortune in his service. The Spaniard, thunderstruck at the extravagant generosity of this proposal, could scarce believe the evidence of his own senses, and after some pause, replied, ' My duty would teach me to obey any command you should think proper to impose ; but here my inclination and interest are so agreeably flattered, that I should be equally ungrateful and unwise, in pretending to comply with reluctance.'

This point being settled, they moved forwards to Mons, as soon as don Diego was in a condition to bear the shock of such a removal ; and there remaining until his wounds were perfectly cured, they hired a post-chaise for Ostend, embarked in a vessel at that port, reached the opposite shore of England, after a short and easy passage, and arrived in London without having met with any sinister accident on the road.

As they approached this capital, Renaldo's grief seemed to regurgitate with redoubled violence. His memory was waked to the most minute and painful exertion of its faculties ; his imagination teemed with the most afflicting images, and his impatience became so ardent, that never lover panted more eagerly for the consummation of his wishes, than Melville for an opportunity of stretching himself upon the grave of the lost Monimia. The Castilian was astonished, as well as affected at the poignancy of his grief, which, as a proof of his susceptibility and virtue, endeared him still more to his affection ; and though his own misfortunes had rendered him very unfit for the office of a comforter, he endeavoured, by soothing discourse, to moderate the excess of his friend's affliction.

Though it was dark when they alighted at the inn, Melville ordered a coach to be called, and

Being attended by the Spaniard, who would not be persuaded to quit him upon such an occasion, he repaired to the house of the generous Jew, whose rheum distilled very plentifully at his approach. The count had already acquitted himself in point of pecuniary obligations to this benevolent Hebrew; and now, after having made such acknowledgments as might be expected from a youth of his disposition, he begged to know by what channel he had received that letter, which he had been so kind as to forward to Vienna.

Joshua, who was ignorant of the contents of that epistle, and saw the young gentleman extremely moved, would have eluded his enquiry, by pretending he had forgot the circumstance; but when he understood the nature of the case, which was not explained without the manifestation of the utmost inquietude, he heartily consoled the desponding lover, telling him he had in vain employed all his intelligence about that unfortunate beauty, in consequence of Melville's letter to him on that subject; and then directed him to the house of that physician, who had brought the fatal billet which had made him miserable.

No sooner did he receive this information than he took his leave abruptly, with promise of returning next day, and hied him to the lodgings of that gentleman, whom he was lucky enough to find at home. Being favoured with a private audience, 'When I tell you,' said he, 'that my name is Renaldo count de Melville, you will know me to be the most unfortunate of men. By that letter, which you committed to the charge of my worthy friend Joshua, the fatal veil was removed from my eyes, which had been so long darkened by the artifices of incredible deceit, and my own incurable misery fully presented to my view. If you were acquainted with the unhappy fair, who hath fallen a victim to my mistake, you will have some idea of the insufferable

\* ferable pangs which I now feel in recollecting her  
 \* fate. If you have compassion for these pangs, you  
 \* will not refuse to conduct me to the spot where the  
 \* dear remains of Monimia are deposited; there let  
 \* me enjoy a full banquet of woe; there let me feast  
 \* that worm of sorrow that preys upon my heart;  
 \* for such entertainment have I revisited this (to me)  
 \* ill-omened isle: for this satisfaction I intrude upon  
 \* your condescension at these unseasonable hours; for  
 \* to such a degree of impatience is my affliction  
 \* whetted, that no slumber shall assail mine eye-lids,  
 \* no peace reside within my bosom, until I shall have  
 \* adored that earthly shrine where my Monimia lies!  
 \* Yet would I know the circumstances of her fate.  
 \* Did heaven ordain no angel to minister to her dis-  
 \* tress? were her last moments comfortless? ha! was  
 \* not she abandoned to indigence, to insults! left  
 \* in the power of that inhuman villain who betrayed  
 \* us both! Sacred heaven! Why did Providence  
 \* wink at the triumph of such consummate per-  
 \* fidy.'

The physician having listened with complacency  
 to this effusion, replied, 'It is my profession, it is  
 ' my nature to sympathize with the afflicted. I am  
 ' a judge of your feelings, because I know the value  
 ' of your loss. I attended the incomparable Moni-  
 ' mia in her last illness, and am well enough ac-  
 ' quainted with her story; to conclude, that she fell  
 ' a sacrifice to an unhappy misunderstanding, effected  
 ' and fomented by that traitor who abused your  
 ' mutual confidence.'

He then proceeded to inform him of all the parti-  
 culars which we have already recorded, touching the  
 destiny of the beautiful orphan, and concluded with  
 telling him he was ready to yield him any other sa-  
 tisfaction which it was in his power to grant. The  
 circumstances of the tale had put Renaldo's spirits  
 into such commotion, that he could utter nothing  
 but interjections and unconnected words. When

Fathom's behaviour was described, he trembled with fierce agitation, started from his chair, pronouncing, 'Monster! fiend! but we shall one day meet.'

When he was made acquainted with the benevolence of the French lady, he exclaimed, 'O heaven-born charity and compassion! sure that must be some spirit of grace sent hither to mitigate the tortures of life! where shall I find her, to offer up my thanks and adoration?' Having heard the conclusion of the detail, he embraced the relater, as the kind benefactor of Monimia, shed a flood of tears in his bosom, and pressed him to crown the obligation, by conducting him to the solitary place where now she rested from all her cares.

The gentleman perceiving the transports of his grief were such as could not be opposed, complied with his request, attended him in the vehicle, and directed the coachman to drive to a sequestered field, at some distance from the city, where stood the church, within whose awful isle this scene was to be acted. The sexton being summoned from his bed, produced the keys, in consequence of a gratification, after the physician had communed with him apart, and explained the intention of Renaldo's visit.

During this pause, the soul of Melville was wound up to the highest pitch of enthusiastic sorrow. The uncommon darkness of the night, the solemn silence, and lonely situation of the place, conspired with the occasion of his coming, and the dismal images of his fancy, to produce a real rapture of gloomy expectation, which the whole world would not have persuaded him to disappoint. The clock struck twelve, the owl screeched from the ruined battlement, the door was opened by the sexton, who, by the light of a glimmering taper, conducted the despairing lover to a dreary isle, and stamped upon the ground with his foot, saying, 'Here the young lady lies interred.'

Melville

Melville no sooner received this intimation, than falling on his knees, and pressing his lips to the hallowed earth: 'Peace,' cried he, 'to the gentle tenant of this silent habitation.' Then turning to the bystanders, with a bloodshot eye, said, 'Leave me to the full enjoyment of this occasion: my grief is too delicate to admit the company even of my friends: the rites to be performed require privacy: adieu then; here must I pass the night alone.'

The doctor, alarmed at this declaration, which he was afraid imported some resolution fatal to his own life, began to repent of having been accessory to the visit, attempted to dissuade him from his purpose, and finding him obstinately determined, called in the sexton and coachman, and solicited the aid of don Diego, to force Renaldo from the execution of his design.

The Castilian, knowing his friend was then very unfit for common altercation, interposed in the dispute, saying, 'You need not be afraid that he will obey the dictates of despair; his religion, his honour will baffle such temptations: he hath promised to reserve his life for the occasions of his friend; and he shall not be disappointed in his present aim.' In order to corroborate this peremptory address, which was delivered in the French language, he unsheathed his sword, and the others retreating at sight of his weapon, 'Count,' said he, 'enjoy your grief in full transport; I will screen you from interruption, though at the hazard of my life; and while you give a loose to sorrow, within that ghastly vault, I will watch till morning in the porch, and meditate upon the ruin of my own family and peace.'

He accordingly prevailed upon the physician to retire, after he had satisfied the sexton, and ordered the coachman to return by break of day.

Renaldo thus left alone, prostrated himself upon the grave, and poured forth such lamentations as would have drawn tears from the most savage hearen.

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He called aloud upon Monimia's name, ' Are these  
' the nuptial joys to which our fate hath doomed us!  
' Is this the fruit of those endearing hopes, that inter-  
' course divine, that raptured admiration, in which  
' so many hours insensibly elapsed! Where now are  
' those attractions, to which I yielded up my captive  
' heart? quenched are those genial eyes that glad-  
' dened each beholder, and shone the planets of my  
' happiness and peace! Cold! cold and withered are  
' those lips that swelled with love, and far out-blush-  
' ed the damask rose! and ah! for ever silenced is  
' that tongue, whose eloquence had power to lull the  
' pangs of misery and care! No more shall my at-  
' tention be ravished with the music of that voice,  
' which used to thrill in soft vibrations to my soul!  
' O fainted spirit! O unspotted shade of her whom  
' I adored! of her whose memory I shall still revere  
' with ever-bleeding sorrow and regret; of her  
' whose image will be the last idea that forsakes this  
' hapless bosom! Now art thou conscious of my in-  
' tegrity and love; now dost thou behold the anguish  
' that I feel. If the pure essence of thy nature will  
' permit, wilt thou, ah! wilt thou indulge this  
' wretched youth with some kind signal of thy notice,  
' with some token of thy approbation! Wilt thou  
' assume a medium of embodied air, in semblance of  
' that lovely form, which now lies mouldering in  
' this dreary tomb, and speak the words of peace to  
' my distempered soul! Return, Monimia! appear,  
' though but for one short moment, to my long-  
' ing eyes! vouchsafe one smile! Renaldo will  
' be satisfied; Renaldo's heart will be at rest, his  
' grief no more will overflow its banks, but glide  
' with equal current to his latest hour! Alas!  
' these are the ravings of my delirious sorrow!  
' Monimia hears not my complaints; her soul, su-  
' blimed far, far above all sublunary cares, enjoys  
' that felicity, of which she was debarred on earth.  
' In vain I stretch these eyes, environed with dark-

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‘ nels undistinguishing and void: no object meets my  
 ‘ view; no sound salutes mine ear, except the noisy  
 ‘ wind that whistles through these vaulted caves of  
 ‘ death.’

In this kind of exclamation did Renaldo pass the night, not without a certain species of woeful enjoyment, which the soul is often able to conjure up from the depths of distress; insomuch, that when the morning intruded on his privacy, he could scarce believe it was the light of day, so fast had fled the minutes of his devotion.

His heart being thus disburthened, and his impatience gratified, he became so calm and composed, that don Diego was equally pleased and astonished at the air of serenity with which he came forth, and embraced him with warm acknowledgments of his goodness and attachment: he frankly owned, that his mind was now more at ease than he had ever found it, since he first received the fatal intimation of his loss; that a few such feasts would entirely moderate the keen appetite of his sorrow, which he would afterwards feed with less precipitation.

He also imparted to the Castilian, the plan of a monument, which he had designed for the incomparable Monimia: and don Diego was so much struck with the description, that he solicited his advice in projecting another, of a different nature, to be erected to the memory of his own ill-fated wife and daughter, should he ever be able to re-establish himself in Spain,

#### C H A P. LXIII.

*He renews the rites of sorrow, and is entranced.*

**W**HILE they amused themselves with this sort of conversation, the physician returned with the coach, and accompanied them back to their inn, where he left them to their repose, after having promised to call again at noon, and conduct Renaldo to the house of madame Clement, the benefactress  
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of Monimia, to whom he eagerly desired to be introduced.

The appointment was observed with all imaginable punctuality on both sides. Melville had arrayed himself in a suit of deep mourning, and he found the good lady in the like habit, assumed upon the same occasion: the goodness of her heart was manifest in her countenance; the sensibility of the youth discovered itself in a flood of tears, which he shed at her appearance. His sensations were too full for utterance; nor was she, for some time, able to give him welcome: while she led him by the hand to a seat, the drops of sympathy rushed into either eye; and at length she broke silence, saying, 'Count, we must acquiesce in the dispensations of providence; and quiet the transports of our grief, with a full assurance that Monimia is happy.'

This name was the key that unlocked the faculty of his speech. 'I must strive, said he, to ease the anguish of my heart with that consolation. But say, humane, benevolent lady, to whose compassion and generosity that helpless orphan was indebted for the last peaceful moment she enjoyed upon earth; say, in all your acquaintance with human nature, in all your intercourse with the daughters of men, in all the exercise of your charity and beneficence, did you ever observe such sweetness, purity, and truth; such beauty, sense, and perfection, as that which was the inheritance of her whose fate I shall for ever deplore? "She was indeed," replied the lady, "the best and fairest of our sex."

This was the beginning of a conversation touching that lovely victim, in the course of which, he explained those wicked arts which Fathom practised to alienate his affections from the adorable Monimia; and she described the cunning hints and false insinuations by which that traitor had aspersed the unsuspecting lover, and soiled his character in the opinion of the virtuous orphan. The intelligence he obtained, on this occasion,



son, added indignation to his grief: the whole mystery of Monimia's behaviour, which he could not before explain, now stood disclosed before him: he saw the gradual progress of that infernal plan, which had been laid for their mutual ruin; and his soul was inflamed with such desire of vengeance, that he would have taken his leave abruptly, in order to set on foot an immediate enquiry about the perfidious author of his wrongs, that he might exterminate such a monster of iniquity from the face of the earth; but he was restrained by madame Clement, who gave him to understand, that Fathom was already overtaken by the vengeance of heaven: for she had traced him in all the course of his fortune, from his first appearance in the medical sphere to his total eclipse. She represented the villain as a wretch altogether unworthy of his attention; she said, he was so covered with infamy, that no person could enter the lists against him, without bearing away some stain of dishonour; that he was at present, peculiarly protected by the law, and sheltered from the resentment of Renaldo, in the cavern of his disgrace.

Melville, glowing with rage, replied, that he was a venomous serpent, which it was incumbent on every foot to crush: that it was the duty of every man to contribute his whole power in freeing society from such a pernicious hypocrite; and that if such instances of perfidy and ingratitude were suffered to pass with impunity, virtue and plain-dealing would soon be expelled from the habitations of men. 'Over and above these motives,' said he, 'I own myself so vitiated with the allay of human passion and infirmity, that I desire, I eagerly pant for an occasion of meeting him hand to hand, where I may upbraid him with his treachery, and shower down vengeance and destruction on his perfidious head.'

Then he recounted the anecdotes of our adventurer, which he had learned in Germany and Flanders, and concluded with declaring his unalterable resolution of releasing

releasing him from jail, that he might have an opportunity of sacrificing him, with his own hand, to the manes of Monimia. The discreet lady, perceiving the perturbation of his mind, would not further combat the impetuosity of his passion; contenting herself with exacting a promise, that he would not execute his purpose, until he should have deliberated three days upon the consequences by which a step of that kind might be attended: before the expiration of that term, she thought measures might be taken to prevent the young gentleman from exposing his life or reputation to unnecessary hazard.

Having complied with her request in this particular, he took his leave, after he had, by repeated entreaties, prevailed upon her to accept a jewel, in token of his veneration for the kind benefactress of his deceased Monimia: nor could his generous heart be satisfied, until he had forced a considerable present on the humane physician, who had attended her in her last moments, and now discovered a particular sympathy and concern for her desponding lover. This gentleman attended him to the house of the benevolent Joshua, where they dined, and where don Diego was recommended, in the most servid terms of friendship, to the good offices of their host. Not that this duty was performed, in presence of the stranger; Renaldo's delicacy would not expose his friend to such a situation: while the physician, before dinner, entertained that stranger in one apartment, Melville withdrew into another, with the Jew, to whom he disclosed the affair of the Castalian, with certain circumstances, which shall in due time be revealed.

Joshua's curiosity being whetted by this information, he could not help eying the Spaniard at table, with such a particular stare, that don Diego perceived his attention, and took umbrage at the freedom of his regard. Being unable to conceal his displeasure, he addressed himself to the Hebrew, with great solemnity, in the Spanish tongue, saying, 'Signior, is there  
' any

any singularity in my appearance? or, do you recollect the features of don Diego de Zelos?

'Signior don Diego, replied the other in pure Castilian, I crave your pardon for the rudeness of my curiosity, which prompted me to survey a nobleman, whose character I revere, and to whose misfortunes I am no stranger; indeed, were curiosity alone concerned, I should be without excuse, but as I am heartily inclined to serve you, as far as my weak abilities extend, I hope your generosity will not impute any little involuntary trespass of punctilio to my want of cordiality or esteem.'

The Spaniard was not only appeased by this apology, but also affected with the compliment, and the language in which it was conveyed. He thanked the Jew for his kind declaration, intreated him to bear with the peevishness of a disposition, sore with the galling hand of affliction; and turning up his eyes to heaven, 'Were it possible,' cried he, 'for fate to reconcile contradictions, and recal the irremediable current of events, I would now believe, that there was happiness still in reserve for the forlorn Zelos; now that I tread the land of freedom and humanity; now that I find myself befriended by the most generous of men. Alas! I ask not happiness! if by the kind endeavours of the gallant count de Melville, to whom I am already indebted for my life; and by the efforts of his friends, the honour of my name shall be purified and cleared from the poisonous stains of malice, by which it is at present spotted; I shall then enjoy all that satisfaction, which destiny can bestow upon a wretch whose woes are incurable.'

Renaldo comforted him with the assurance of his being on the eve of triumphing over his adversaries; and Joshua confirmed the consolation, by giving him to understand, that he had correspondents in Spain, of some influence in the state; that he had already written to them on the subject of don Diego, in consequence

sequence of a letter which he had received from Melville, while he tarried at Mons, and that he every post expected a favourable answer on that subject.

After dinner, the physician took his leave, though not before he had promised to meet Renaldo at night, and accompany him in the repetition of his midnight visit to Monimia's tomb: for this pilgrimage the unfortunate youth resolved nightly to perform, during the whole time of his residence in England: it was, indeed, a sort of pleasure, the prospect of which enabled him to bear the toil of living through the day; though his patience was almost quite exhausted before the hour of assignation arrived.

When the doctor appeared with the coach, he leaped into it with great eagerness, after he had, with much difficulty, prevailed with don Diego to stay at home, on account of his health, which was not yet perfectly established. The Castilian, however, would not comply with his request, until he had obtained the count's promise, that he should be permitted to accompany him next night, and take that duty alternately with the physician.

About midnight they reached the place, where they found the sexton in waiting, according to the orders he had received: the door was opened, the mourner conducted to the tomb, and left, as before, to the gloom of his own meditations. Again he laid himself on the cold ground; again he renewed his lamentable strain; his imagination began to be heated into an extasy of enthusiasm, during which he again fervently invoked the spirit of his deceased Monimia.

In the midst of these invocations, his ear was suddenly invaded with the sound of some few solemn notes, issuing from the organ, which seemed to feel the impulse of an invisible hand.

At this awful salutation, Melville was roused to the keenest sense of surprize and attention: reason shrunk before the thronging ideas of his fancy, which  
repre

represented this music as the prelude to something strange and supernatural ; and while he waited for the sequel, the place was suddenly illuminated, and each surrounding object brought under the cognizance of his eye.

What passed within his mind on this occasion, is not easy to be described : all his faculties were swallowed up by those of seeing and hearing : he had mechanically raised himself upon one knee, with his body advancing forwards ; and in this attitude he gazed with a look, through which his soul seemed eager to escape. To his view, thus strained upon vacant space, in a few minutes appeared the figure of a woman arrayed in white, with a veil that covered her face, and flowed down upon her back and shoulders. The phantom approached him with an easy step, and, lifting up her veil, discovered (believe it, O reader !) the individual countenance of Monimia.

At sight of these well-known features, seemingly improved with new celestial graces, the youth became a statue, expressing amazement, love, and awful adoration. He saw the apparition smile with meek benevolence, divine compassion, warmed and intendered by that fond, pure flame, which death could not extinguish. He heard the voice of his Monimia call Renaldo ! Thrice he assayed to answer ; as oft his tongue denied its office : his hair stood upright, and a cold vapour seemed to thrill through every nerve. This was not fear, but the infirmity of human nature, oppressed by the presence of a superior Being.

At length his agony was overcome ; he recollected all his resolution, and in a strain of awe-struck rapture, thus addressed the heavenly visitant : ‘ Hast thou then heard, pure spirit ! the wailings of my grief ? hast thou descended from the realms of bliss, in pity to my woe ? and art thou come to speak the words of peace to my desponding soul ? To bid the wretched smile ; to lift the load of misery and care from the afflicted breast ; to fill thy lover’s heart

heart with joy and pleasing hope, was still the darling task of my Monimia, ere yet refined to that perfection, which mortality can never attain : no wonder then, blest shade, that now, when reunited to thy native heaven, thou art still kind, propitious, and beneficent to us, who groan in this inhospitable vale of sorrow thou hast left : tell me, ah ! tell me, dost thou still remember those fond hours we passed together ? Doth that enlightened bosom feel a pang of soft regret, when thou recallest our fatal separation ? Sure that meekened glance bespeaks thy sympathy ! Ah ! how that overpowers me ! Sacred heaven ! the pearly drops of pity trickle down thy cheeks ! Such are the tears that angels shed o'er man's distress ! Turn not away : thou beckonest me to follow : yes, I will follow thee, ætherial spirit, as far as these weak limbs, encumbered with mortality, will bear my weight ; and, would to heaven I could, with ease, put off these vile, corporeal shackles, and attend thy flight.

So saying, he started from the ground, and in a transport of eager expectation, at awful distance, traced the footsteps of the apparition, which entering a detached apartment, sunk down upon a chair, and with a sigh exclaimed, ' Indeed this is too much ! ' What was the disorder of Renaldo's mind, when he perceived this phenomenon ! Before reflection could perform its office, moved by a sudden impulse, he sprung forwards, crying, ' If it be death to touch thee, let me die ! ' and caught in his arms, not the shadow, but the warm substance of the accomplished Monimia. ' Mysterious powers of providence ; this is no phantom ! this is no shade ! this is the life ! the panting bosom of her whom I have so long, so bitterly deplored ! I fold her in my arms ! I press her glowing breast to mine ! I see her blush with virtuous pleasure and ingenuous love ! she smiles upon me with enchanting tenderness ! O let me gaze on that transcendent beauty,

which

‘ which the more I view it, ravishes the more ! These charms are too intense ; I sicken while I gaze ! Merciful heaven ! is not this a mere illusion of the brain ? Was she not fled for ever ? Had not the cold hand of death divorced her from my hope ? This must be some flattering vision of my distempered fancy ! perhaps some soothing dream : if such it be, grant, O ye heavenly powers ! that I may never wake.’

‘ O gentle youth !’ replied the beauteous orphan, still clasped in his embrace, ‘ what joy now fills the bosom of Monimia, at this triumph of thy virtue and thy love ? When I see these transports of thy affection, when I find thee restored to that place in my esteem and admiration, which thou hadst lost by the arts of calumny and malice ! this is a meeting which my most sanguine hopes durst not preface !’

So entirely were the faculties of Renaldo engrossed in the contemplation of his restored Monimia, that he saw not the rest of the company, who wept with transport over this affecting scene : he was therefore amazed at the interposition of madam Clement, who, while the shower of sympathetic pleasure bedewed her cheeks, congratulated the lovers upon this happy event, crying, ‘ These are the joys which virtue calls her own.’ They also received the compliments of a reverend clergyman, who told Monimia, she had reaped, at last, the fruits of that pious resignation to the will of heaven, which she had so devoutly practised during the term of her affliction : and, lastly, they were accosted by the physician, who was not quite so hackneyed in the ways of death, or so callous to the finer sensations of the soul, but that he blubbered plentifully, while he petitioned heaven in behalf of such an accomplished and deserving pair.

Monimia taking madam Clement by the hand, ‘ Whatever joy,’ said she, ‘ Renaldo derives from this occasion, is owing to the bounty, the compassion, and maternal care of this incomparable lady, together

‘ together with the kind admonitions and humanity of these two worthy gentlemen.’

Melville, whose passions were still in agitation, and whose mind could not yet digest the incidents that occurred, embraced them all by turns, but, like the faithful needle, which though shaken for an instant from its poize, immediately regains its true direction, and points invariably to the pole, he soon returned to his Monimia; again he held her in his arms; again he drank enchantment from her eyes, and thus poured forth the effusions of his soul. ‘ Can I then trust the evidence of sense? And art thou really to my wish restored? Never, O never did thy beauty shine with such bewitching grace, as that which now confounds and captivates my view! sure there is something more than mortal in thy looks! where hast thou lived? where borrowed this perfection? whence art thou now descended? Oh! I am all amazement, joy and fear! thou wilt not leave me! no! we must not part again: by this warm kiss! a thousand times more sweet than all the fragrance of the east! we never more will part. O this is rapture, extasy, and what no language can explain!’

In the midst of these ejaculations, he ravished a banquet from her glowing lips, that kindled in his heart a flame, which rushed through every vein, and glided to his marrow: this was a privilege he had never claimed before, and now permitted as a recompence for all the penance he had suffered; nevertheless, the cheeks of Monimia, who was altogether unaccustomed to such familiarities, underwent a total suffusion; and Madam Clement discreetly relieved her from the anxiety of her situation, by interfering in the discourse, and rallying the count, upon his endeavours to monopolize such a branch of happiness.

‘ O my dear lady!’ replied Renaldo, who by this time had, in some measure, recovered his recollection, ‘ forgive,



'forgive the wild transports of a fond lover, who  
 'hath so unexpectedly retrieved the jewel of his  
 'soul! yet, far from wishing to hoard up his treasure,  
 'he means to communicate and diffuse his happiness  
 'to all his friends. O my Monimia! how will the  
 'pleasure of this hour be propagated! as yet thou  
 'knowest not all the bliss that is reserved for thy en-  
 'joyment: mean while, I long to learn by what con-  
 'trivance this happy interview hath been effected:  
 'still am I ignorant how I was transported into this  
 'apartment, from the lonely vault, in which I mourn-  
 'ed over my supposed misfortune!'

## C H A P. LXIV.

*The mystery unfolded. Another recognition, which, it is to be hoped, the reader could not foresee.*

**T**HE French lady then explained the whole mys-  
 tery of Monimia's death, as a stratagem she had  
 concerted with the clergyman and doctor, in order to  
 defeat the pernicious designs of Fathom, who seemed  
 determined to support his false pretensions, by dint of  
 perjury and fraud, which they would have found it very  
 difficult to elude. She observed, that the physician had  
 actually despaired of Monimia's life, and it was not  
 till after she herself was made acquainted with the  
 prognostick, that she wrote the letter to Renaldo,  
 which she committed to the care of madam Clement,  
 with an earnest intreaty, that it should not be sent till  
 after her decease: but that lady believing the count  
 had been certainly abused by his treacherous confidant,  
 dispatched the billet without the knowledge of Mo-  
 nimia, whose health was restored by the indefatigable  
 care of the physician, and the sage exhortations of the  
 clergyman, by which she was reconciled to life. In  
 a word, the villany of Fathom had inspired her with  
 some faint hope that Renaldo might still be innocent;  
 and that notion contributed not a little to her cure.

The letter having so effectually answered their warm-

est hopes, in bringing back Renaldo such a pattern of constancy and love; the confederates, in consequence of his enthusiastic sorrow, had planned this meeting, as the most interesting way of restoring two virtuous lovers to the arms of each other; for which purpose the good clergyman had pitched upon his own church, and indulged them with the use of the vestry, in which they now were presented with a small but elegant collation!

Melville heard this succinct detail with equal joy and admiration: he poured forth the dictates of his gratitude to the preservers of his happiness: 'This church,' said he, 'shall henceforth possess a double share of my veneration; this holy man will, I hope, finish the charitable work he has begun; by tying those bands of our happiness, which nought but death shall have power to unbind.' Then turning to that object which was the star of his regard, 'Do I not over-rate,' said he, 'my interest with the fair Monimia?' She made no verbal reply; but answered by an emphatic glance, more eloquent than all the power of rhetoric and speech. This language, which is universal in the world of love, he perfectly well understood, and in token of that faculty, sealed the assent which she had smiled, with a kiss imprinted on her polished forehead.

In order to dissipate those interesting ideas, which, by being too long indulged, might have endangered his reason; madam Clement intreated him to entertain the company with a detail of what had happened to him in his last journey to the empire; and Monimia expressed a desire of knowing, in particular, the issue of his contest with count Trebasi, who she knew, had usurped the succession of his father.

Thus solicited, he could not refuse to gratify their curiosity and concern: he explained his obligations to the benevolent Jew; related the steps he had taken at Vienna for the recovery of his inheritance; informed them of his happy rencounter with his father-in-law;

law; of his sister's deliverance and marriage; of the danger into which his life had been precipitated by the news of Monimia's death; and, lastly, of his adventure with the banditti, in favour of a gentleman, who (he afterwards understood) had been robbed in the most base and barbarous manner by Fathom. He likewise, to the astonishment of all present, and of his mistress in particular, communicated some circumstances, which shall appear in due season.

Monimia's tender frame being quite fatigued with the scene she had acted, and her mind overwhelmed with the prosperous tidings she had heard, after having joined the congratulations of the company, on the good fortune of her Renaldo, begged leave to retire, that she might by repose recruit her exhausted spirits; and the night being pretty far spent, she was conducted by her lover to madam Clement's coach, that stood in waiting, in which also the rest of the company made shift to embark, and were carried to the house of that good lady, where after they were invited to dine, and Melville intreated to bring don Diego and the Jew along with them, they took leave of one another, and retired to their respective lodgings in a transport of joy and satisfaction.

As for Renaldo, his rapture was still mixed with apprehension, that all he had seen and heard was no more than an unsubstantial vision, raised by some gay delirium of a disordered imagination. While his breast underwent those violent, though blissful emotions of joy and admiration, his friend the Castilian spent the night in ruminating over his own calamities, and in a serious and severe review of his own conduct. He compared his own behaviour with that of the young Hungarian, and found himself so light in the scale, that he smote his breast with violence, exclaiming in an agony of remorse;

Count Melville has reason to grieve; don Diego to despair: his misfortunes flow from the villainy of mankind; mine are the fruit of my own mad-

' nefs : he laments the loss of a mistress, who fell a  
 ' sacrifice to the perfidious arts of a crafty traitor :  
 ' she was beautiful, virtuous, accomplished, and af-  
 ' fectionate ; he was fraught with sensibility and love ;  
 ' doubtless, his heart must have deeply suffered ; his  
 ' behaviour denotes the keenness of his woe ; his eyes  
 ' are ever-flowing fountains of tears ; his bosom the  
 ' habitation of sighs ; five hundred leagues hath he  
 ' measured in a pilgrimage to her tomb ; nightly he  
 ' visits the dreary vault where she now lies at rest ;  
 ' her solitary grave is his couch ; he converses with  
 ' darkness and the dead, until each lonely isle re-  
 ' echoes his distress. What would be his penance,  
 ' had he my cause ? were he conscious of having  
 ' murdered a beloved wife and darling daughter !  
 ' ah wretch ! ah cruel homicide ! what had those  
 ' dear victims done to merit such a fate ? Were they  
 ' not ever gentle and obedient, ever aiming to give  
 ' thee satisfaction and delight ? Say, that Serafina was en-  
 ' amoured of a peasant ; say, that she had degenerated  
 ' from the honour of her race : the inclinations are  
 ' involuntary ; perhaps that stranger was her equal in  
 ' pedigree and worth. Had they been fairly question-  
 ' ed, they might have justified, at least excused that  
 ' conduct which appeared so criminal ; or had they  
 ' owned the offence, and supplicated pardon : oh  
 ' barbarous monster that I am ! was all the husband,  
 ' was all the father extinguished in my heart ? how  
 ' shall my own errors be forgiven, if I refused to  
 ' pardon the frailties of my own blood : of those who  
 ' are most dear to my affection ! Yet nature pleaded  
 ' strongly in their behalf ! my heart was bursting  
 ' while I dismissed them to the shades of death : I  
 ' was maddened with revenge ! I was guided by that  
 ' savage principle which falsely we call honour ; ac-  
 ' cursed phantome ! that assumes the specious title,  
 ' and misleads our wretched nation ! is it then honour-  
 ' able to sculk like an assassin, and plunge the secret  
 ' dagger in the heart of some unhappy man, who  
 ' hath

hath incurred my groundless jealousy or suspicion, without indulging him with that opportunity which the worst criminal enjoys? or is it honourable to poison two defenceless women, a tender wife, an amiable daughter, whom even a frown would almost have destroyed! O! this is cowardice, brutality, hell-born fury and revenge! heaven hath not mercy to forgive such execrable guilt. Who gave thee power, abandoned ruffian! o'er the lives of those whom God hath stationed as thy fellows of probation; o'er those whom he had sent to comfort and assist thee; to sweeten all thy cares, and smoothe the rough uneven paths of life? O! I am doomed to never-ceasing horror and remorse! if misery can atone for such enormous guilt, I have felt it in the extreme: like an undying vulture it preys upon my heart; to sorrow I am wedded; I hug that teeming consort to my soul; never, ah never shall we part! for soon as my fame shall shine unclouded by the charge of treason that now hangs over it, I will devote myself to penitence and woe: a cold damp pavement shall be my bed; my raiment shall be sackcloth; the fields shall furnish herbage for my food; the stream shall quench my thirst; the minutes shall be numbered by my groans; the night be privy to my strains of sorrow, till heaven, in pity to my sufferings, release me from the penance I endure. Perhaps the saints whom I have murdered, will intercede for my remission.'

Such was the exercise of grief, in which the hapless Castilian consumed the night; he had not yet consigned himself to rest, when Renaldo entering his chamber, displayed such a gleam of wildness and rapture in his countenance, as overwhelmed him with amazement; for till that moment, he had never seen his visage unobscured with woe. 'Pardon this abrupt intrusion, my friend,' cried Melville, 'I could no longer withhold from your participation, the great, the unexpected turn which hath this night

‘ dispelled all my sorrows, and restored me to the  
 ‘ fruition of ineffable joy. Monimia lives! the fair,  
 ‘ the tender, the virtuous Monimia lives, and smiles  
 ‘ upon my vows! This night I retrieved her from  
 ‘ the grave: I held her in these arms; I pressed her  
 ‘ warm delicious lips to mine! O! I am giddy with  
 ‘ intolerable pleasure!’

Don Diego was confounded at this declaration, which he considered as the effect of a disordered brain: he never doubted that Renaldo’s grief had at length overpowered his reason, and that his words were the effect of mere frenzy. While he mused on this melancholy subject, the count composed his features, and, in a succinct and well connected detail, explained the whole mystery of his happiness, to the inexpressible astonishment of the Spaniard, who shed tears of satisfaction, and straining the Hungarian to his breast, ‘ O my son!’ said he, ‘ you see what recompence heaven hath in store for those who pursue the paths of real virtue; those paths from which I myself have been fatally misled by a faithless vapour, which hath seduced my steps, and left me darkling in the abyss of wretchedness. Such as you describe this happy fair, was once my Serafina, rich in every grace of mind and body which nature could bestow. Had it pleased heaven to bless her with a lover like Renaldo! but no more, the irrevocable shaft is fled: I will not taint your enjoyment with my unavailing sighs!’

Melville assured this disconsolate father, that no pleasure, no avocation should ever so entirely ingross his mind, but that he should still find an hour for sympathy and friendship: he communicated the invitation of madam Clement, and insisted upon his compliance, that he might have an opportunity of seeing and approving the object of his passion. ‘ I can refuse nothing to the request of count de Melville,’ replied the Spaniard, ‘ and it were ungrateful in me to decline the honour you propose. I own myself  
 ‘ inflamed

inflamed with a desire of beholding a young lady, whose perfections I have seen reflected in your mirror; my curiosity is moreover interested on account of that humane gentlewoman, whose uncommon generosity sheltered such virtue in distress; but my disposition is infectious, and will, I am afraid, hang like a damp upon the general festivity of your friends.

Melville would take no denial, and having obtained his consent, repaired to the house of Joshua, whose countenance seemed to unbend gradually, into a total expression of joy and surprize, as he learned the circumstances of this amazing event: he faithfully promised to attend the count at the appointed hour, and in the mean time earnestly exhorted him to take some repose, in order to quiet the agitation of his spirits, which must have been violently hurried on this occasion. The advice was salutary, and Renaldo resolved to follow it.

He returned to his lodgings, and laid himself down; but notwithstanding the fatigue he had undergone, sleep refused to visit his eye-lids, all his faculties being kept in motion by the ideas that crowded so fast upon his imagination: nevertheless, though his mind continued in agitation, his body was refreshed, and he arose in the forenoon, with more serenity and vigour than he had enjoyed for many months: every moment his heart throbbed with new rapture, when he found himself on the brink of possessing all that his soul held dear and amiable; he put on his gayest looks and apparel; insisted upon the Castilian's doing the same honour to the occasion; and the alteration of dress produced such an advantageous change of Don Diego, that when Joshua arrived at the appointed hour, he could scarce recognize his features, and complimented him very politely on the improvement of his looks.

True it is, the Spaniard was a personage of a very prepossessing mein, and noble deportment; and had

not grief, by increasing his native gravity; in some measure discomposed the symmetry of his countenance, he would have passed for a man of a very amiable and engaging physiognomy. They set out in the Jew's coach for the house of madam Clement, and were ushered into an apartment, where they found the clergyman and physician with that lady, to whom Don Diego and the Hebrew were by Melville introduced.

Before they had seated themselves, Renaldo enquired about the health of Monimia, and was directed to the next room by madam Clement, who permitted him to go thither, and conduct her to the company. He was not slow in availing himself of this permission: he disappeared in an instant, and during his short absence, Don Diego was strangely disturbed: the blood flushed, and forsook his cheeks by turns; a cold vapour seemed to shiver through his nerves; and at his breast he felt uncommon palpitation. Madam Clement observed his discomposure, and kindly enquired into the cause; when he replied, 'I have such an interest in what concerns the count de Melville, and my imagination is so much prepossessed with the perfections of Monimia, that I am, as it were, agonized with expectation; yet never did my curiosity before raise such tumults as those that now agitate my bosom!'

He had scarce pronounced these words, when the door re opening, Renaldo led in this mirror of elegance and beauty, at sight of whom the Israelite's countenance was distorted into a stare of admiration. But if such was the astonishment of Joshua, what were the emotions of the Castilian, when, in theauteous orphan, he beheld the individual features of his long lost Serafina!

His feelings are not to be described: the fond parent, whose affection shoots even to a sense of pain, feels not half such transport, when he unexpectedly retrieves a darling child from the engulfing billows



or devouring flame. The hope of Zelos had been totally extinguished: his heart had been incessantly torn with anguish and remorse, upbraiding him as the murderer of Serafina. His therefore were the additional transports of a father disburthened of the guilt of such enormous homicide. His nerves were too much overpowered by this sudden recognition, to manifest the sensation of his soul by external signs. He started not, nor did he lift an hand in token of surprise: he moved not from the spot on which he stood, but rivetting his eyes to those of the lovely phantom, remained without motion, until she, approaching with her lover, fell at his feet, and clasping his knees, exclaimed, 'May I yet call you father?'

This powerful shock aroused his faculties; a cold sweat bedewed his forehead; his knees began to totter; he dropped upon the floor, and throwing his arms around her, cried, 'Oh nature! O Serafina! merciful providence! thy ways are past finding out.' So saying, he fell upon her neck, and wept aloud: the tears of sympathetic joy trickled down her snowy bosom, that heaved with rapture inexpressible. Renaldo's eyes poured forth the briny stream: the cheeks of madam Clement were not dry in this conjuncture: she kneeled by Serafina, kissed her with all the eagerness of maternal affection, and with uplifted hands adored the power that pre-ordained this blessed event: the clergyman and doctor intimately shared the general transport; and as for Joshua, the drops of true benevolence flowed from his eyes, like the oil on Aaron's beard, while he skipped about the room in an aukward extacy, and in a voice resembling the hoarse notes of the long-eared tribe, cried, 'O father Abraham! such a moving scene hath not been acted since Joseph disclosed himself unto his brethren in Egypt!'

Don Diego having found utterance to his passion, proceeded in this strain, 'O! my dear child! to-

‘ find thee thus again, after our last unhappy parting,  
 ‘ is wonderful! miraculous! Blessed be the all-good,  
 ‘ almighty power, that saved thee for this hour of  
 ‘ joy! Yet while my heart yearns towards thee;  
 ‘ while I pant with inconceivable affection, and thus  
 ‘ review these living features, which were so long  
 ‘ my study and delight, I dare not ask by what my-  
 ‘ sterious means this meeting is effected; lest, in the  
 ‘ fond enquiry, I find my present bliss unreal, and  
 ‘ awake to misery again!’

‘ O ever honoured father!’ she replied, ‘ if to see  
 ‘ your Serafina at your feet melting, with filial love  
 ‘ and veneration, can impart a gleam of satisfaction  
 ‘ to your breast, enjoy that pleasure, and behold her  
 ‘ now restored to your protection and paternal will,  
 ‘ which she never more will disobey. Alas! had  
 ‘ heaven thought proper to reserve another parent for  
 ‘ this interview, our joys had been complete; but  
 ‘ she hath already paid her debt to nature, and from  
 ‘ the seats of bliss looks down well pleased on this  
 ‘ interesting scene.’

‘ Ah, my Antonia!’ cried the father, interrupting  
 her, ‘ she is then at rest. Peace be to her unspotted  
 ‘ soul; to have found her here had been too much:  
 ‘ how my Serafina hath survived my blindfold rage,  
 ‘ I know not; but sure the guilt of fair Antonia’s  
 ‘ death still hangs upon my soul.’

‘ Dismiss that fatal thought,’ said Serafina, ‘ my  
 ‘ mother quietly bade adieu to life in England; she  
 ‘ peaceably expired within these arms, and with her  
 ‘ latest breath prayed for her hapless husband.’—  
 ‘ Her mind was ever godlike,’ he resumed; ‘ she was  
 ‘ a saint in virtue, ill bestowed on such a wretch as  
 ‘ me; yet thy words have raised a dreadful burthen  
 ‘ from my conscience: I am not then the dire assassin  
 ‘ who sacrificed his wife and daughter to an infernal  
 ‘ motive, falsely titled honour? though I am more  
 ‘ and more involved in a mystery, which I long to  
 ‘ hear explained.’

‘ That

‘That shall be my task,’ cried Renaldo, ‘but first permit me to implore your sanction to my passion for the incomparable Serafina. You already know our mutual sentiments; and though I own the possession of such inestimable worth and beauty, would be a recompence that infinitely transcends the merit I can plead, yet as it hath been my good fortune to inspire her with a mutual flame, I hope to reap from your indulgence, what I could not expect from my own desert; and here we present ourselves, in hope of your paternal assent and benediction.’

‘Were she more fair, and good, and gentle than she is,’ answered the Castilian, (and to my partial observation, nought ever appeared on earth more beautiful and engaging) ‘I would approve your title to her heart, and recommend you to her smiles, with all a father’s influence and power: yes, my daughter! my joy on this occasion is infinitely augmented by the knowledge of those tender ties of love that bind thee to this amiable youth: a youth! to whose uncommon courage and generosity I owe my life and my subsistence, together with the inexpressible delight that now revels in my bosom. Enjoy, my children, the happy fruits of your reciprocal attachment. May heaven, which hath graciously conducted you through a labyrinth of perplexity and woe, to this transporting view of blissful days, indulge you with that uninterrupted stream of pure felicity, which is the hope, and ought to be the boon of virtue, such as yours.’

So saying, he joined their hands, and embraced them with the most cordial love and satisfaction, which diffused itself to every individual of the company, who fervently invoked the Almighty Power, in behalf of this enraptured pair. The tumult of these emotions having a little subsided, and the Castilian being seated betwixt Renaldo and his beautiful bride, he politely bespoke the indulgence of

madam Clement, begging she would permit him to demand the performance of the count's promise, that he might be forthwith made acquainted with those circumstances of his own fate, which he was so impatient to learn.

The lady having assured him, that she and all the company would take pleasure in hearing the recapitulation, the Spaniard, addressing himself to Melville, 'In the name of heaven!' said he, 'how could you supplant that rival, who fell a sacrifice to my resentment, after he had bewitched the heart of Serafina? for, sure, the affection he had kindled in her breast, must have long survived his death.'—'That rival,' replied the count, 'who incurred your displeasure, was no other than Renaldo.' With these words, he applied to one eye a patch of black silk provided for the purpose, and turning his face towards don Diego, that gentleman started with astonishment, crying, 'Good heaven! the very countenance of Orlando, whom I slew! this is still more amazing!'

#### C H A P. LXV.

*A retrospective link, necessary for the concatenation of these memoirs.*

**I**NDULGE me with a patient hearing, proceeded the Hungarian, and all these riddles soon will be explained. Inflamed with the desire of seeing foreign countries, I disobeyed the will of an indulgent father, from whose house withdrawing privately, I set out for Italy, in disguise, by the way of Tyrol, visited Venice, Rome, Florence, and embarking at Naples, in an English ship, arrived at St. Lucar, from whence I repaired to Seville; there, in a few days, was my curiosity engaged by the fame of the fair Serafina, who was justly deemed the most accomplished beauty in that part of Spain. Nay, blush not, gentle crea-  
sure!

' sure! for, by my hopes of heaven! thy charms  
 ' were even injured by the cold applause of that  
 ' report: nevertheless, I was warmly interested by  
 ' the uncommon character, and eagerly longed to  
 ' see this pattern of perfection. As don Diego did  
 ' not train her up in that restraint to which the Spa-  
 ' nish ladies are subjected, I soon found an oppor-  
 ' tunity of seeing her at church; and no person here  
 ' present will, I presume, doubt that I was instantly  
 ' captivated by her beauty and deportment. Had I  
 ' thought that don Diego's favour was unengaged,  
 ' perhaps I should have followed the dictates of  
 ' vanity and inexperience, and presented myself in  
 ' my own character, among the croud of her pro-  
 ' fessed admirers. I knew her father had been an  
 ' officer of distinguished rank and reputation, and  
 ' did not doubt that he would have regarded a young  
 ' soldier of unexceptionable pedigree, and I will even  
 ' add, of untainted fame: nor did I suppose my  
 ' own father could have objected against such an  
 ' advantageous match; but, by dint of industrious  
 ' inquiry, I learned, that the divine Serafina was al-  
 ' ready betrothed to don Manuel de Mendoza, and  
 ' this information overwhelmed me with despair.

' After having revolved a thousand projects for  
 ' retarding and preventing that detested union, I re-  
 ' solved to avail myself of my talent for drawing,  
 ' and professed myself a master of that science, in  
 ' hope of being employed by the father of Serafina,  
 ' who, I knew, let slip no opportunity of improv-  
 ' ing his daughter's education. Accordingly, I had  
 ' the good fortune to attract his notice, was invited  
 ' to his house, honoured with his approbation, and  
 ' furnished with unrestricted opportunities of con-  
 ' versing with the dear object of my love. The  
 ' passion which her beauty had kindled, was, by the  
 ' perfections of her mind, inflamed to such a degree  
 ' of transport, as could not be concealed from her  
 ' penetration. She chanced to relish my conversation;

' I gradually

I gradually acquired her friendship; pity was the next passion that she entertained in my favour. I then ventured to disclose myself, and the dear charmer did not disapprove of my presumption. She and her mother had been perplexed with some religious scruples, concerning which they appealed to my opinion; and I was happy enough to set their minds at ease.

This sort of intercourse naturally created a mutual confidence among us; and, in a word, I was blessed with the daughter's love and mother's approbation. Don Diego will pardon those clandestine measures which we took, from a full persuasion, that it was impossible to render him propitious to the views in which our hearts and hands were so deeply interested: I did not then know how little he was addicted to superstition.

Without entering into a detail of the schemes we projected to delay the happiness of Mendoza, I shall only observe, that knowing the fatal day was at length unalterably fixed, we determined to elude the purpose of don Diego by flight, and every thing was actually prepared for our escape. When the hour of appointment arrived, I repaired to the place at which I had proposed to enter the house, and stumbled, in the dark, over the body of a man still warm and bleeding. Alarmed at this occurrence, I darted myself through the window, and rushing to the apartment of the ladies, (immortal powers!) beheld the peerless Serafina, and her virtuous mother stretched on a couch, and in all appearance deprived of life.

The company will easily conceive what agonies I felt at such a spectacle. I ran towards the spot in a transport of horror; I clasped my lovely mistress in my arms, and finding her still breathing, endeavoured, but in vain, to wake her from the trance: Antonia was overwhelmed with the same lethargic power. My fancy was immediately struck

with

‘ with the apprehension of their being poisoned. Re-  
‘ gardless of my own situation, I alarmed the family,  
‘ called for assistance, and requested the servants to  
‘ summon don Diego to the dismal scene. I was  
‘ informed, that their master had rode forth in mani-  
‘ fest confusion; and while I pondered on this sur-  
‘ prising excursion, an apothecary in the neighbour-  
‘ hood entered the chamber, and having examined  
‘ the pulses of the ladies, declared, that their lives  
‘ were in no danger, and advised that they should  
‘ be undressed and conveyed to bed. While their  
‘ women were busied in this employment, I went  
‘ into the court-yard, attended by some of the ser-  
‘ vants with lights, in order to view the body of the  
‘ man, which I had found at my arrival. His ap-  
‘ parrel was mean, his countenance ferocious, a long  
‘ spado was buckled to his thigh, and in his belt  
‘ were stuck a brace of loaded pistols; so that we  
‘ concluded he was some thief, who had waited for  
‘ an opportunity, and seeing the casement open, in-  
‘ tended to rob the house, but was prevented and  
‘ slain by don Diego himself, whose retreat, how-  
‘ ever, did not a little confound our conjecture. For  
‘ my own part, I remained all night in the house,  
‘ tortured with fear, vexation, and suspense.

‘ My hope was altogether disappointed by this un-  
‘ happy accident, and I shuddered at the prospect  
‘ of losing Serafina for ever, either by this mysterious  
‘ malady, or by her marriage with Mendoza, which  
‘ I now despaired of being able to defeat. The  
‘ major-domo having waited several hours for his  
‘ lord’s return, without seeing him appear, thought  
‘ proper to dispatch a messenger to don Manuel, with  
‘ an account of what had happened; and that noble-  
‘ man arriving in the morning, took possession of the  
‘ house. About four o’clock in the afternoon, Sera-  
‘ fina began to stir, and at five, she and her mother  
‘ were perfectly awake.

‘ They

They no sooner recovered the use of reflection, than they gave signs of equal sorrow and amazement, and earnestly called for Isabella, who was privy to our design, and who, after a very minute enquiry, was found in a lone and solitary chamber, where she had been confined. Such was the confusion of the house, that no person ever dreamed of asking how I had entered, each domestic, in all probability, supposing that I had been introduced by his fellow : so that I tarried unquestioned, on pretence of concern for the distress of a family, in which I had been so generously entertained ; and by Isabella sent my respects and duty to her ladies : she was therefore not a little surprized, when, after every other servant had withdrawn, she heard the lovely Serafina exclaim, with all the violence of grief, “ Ah ! Isabella, Orlando is no more ! ” But their astonishment was still greater, when she assured them of my being alive, and in the house. They recounted to her the adventure of last night, which she explained by informing them of the letters which don Diego had intercepted : and they immediately concluded, that he had, in the precipitation of his wrath, killed by mistake, the person who was found dead in the court-yard. This conjecture alarming them on my account, they, by the medium of Isabella, conjured me to leave the house, lest don Diego should return and accomplish his resentment ; and I was persuaded to withdraw, after I had settled the channel of a correspondence with the confidante.

Being now obliged to alter our measures, because our former intention was discovered by don Diego, I secured a retreat for Serafina and her mother, at the house of the English consul in Seville, who was my particular friend ; and next day understanding, from Isabella, that her lord had not yet re-appeared, and that don Manuel was very urgent in his addresses, we concerted an assignation in the garden, and that same evening I was fortunate enough to convey my prize

to



to the asylum I had prepared for their reception. Inexpressible was the rage of Mendoza, when he heard of their elopement: he raved like one deprived of reason, swore he would put all the servants of the family to the rack, and in consequence of the intelligence he obtained by threats and promises, set on foot a very strict enquiry, in order to apprehend the fugitives and Orlando, who had, by some means or other, incurred his suspicion.

' We eluded his search by the vigilance and caution of our kind host; and while we remained in concealment, were extremely astonished to hear, that the unfortunate don Diego was proclaimed a traitor, and a price set upon his head. This information overwhelmed us all with the utmost affliction: Antonia lamented, without ceasing, the disgrace of her beloved lord, from whom she never would have withdrawn herself, but with the lively hope of a reconciliation, after the first transports of his ire should have subsided, and the real character of Orlando should have appeared: it was not long before we had reason to believe that Mendoza was the accuser of don Diego.—

' Nay, start not, signior; Manuel was actually that traitor: this was the turn of his revenge; when he found himself disappointed in the hope of possessing the incomparable Serafina, he took a base advantage of your absence and retreat. He posted to Madrid, impeached you to the secretary of state, of having maintained a criminal correspondence with the enemies of Spain; included me in his accusation, as a spy for the house of Austria, and framed such a plausible tale from the circumstances of your distress, that don Diego was outlawed, and Mendoza gratified with a grant of his estate.

' These melancholy incidents made a deep impression upon the mind of the virtuous Antonia, who, waving every other consideration, would have personally appeared for the vindication of her husband's honour,

honour, had not we dissuaded her from such a rash undertaking, by demonstrating her inability to contend with such a powerful antagonist, and representing, that her appearance would be infallibly attended with the ruin of Serafina, who would certainly fall into the hands of the villain to whom she had been contracted. We exhorted her to wait patiently for some happy revolution of fortune, and encouraged her with the hope of don Diego's exerting himself effectually in his own defence.

Mean while, our worthy landlord was suddenly cut off by death; and his widow being resolved to retire into her own country, we secretly embarked in the same ship, and arrived in England about eighteen months ago. Antonia still continued to pine over the ruin of her house; as she could hear no tidings of don Diego, she concluded he was dead, and mourned with unabating sorrow. In vain I assured her that soon as my own affairs should be adjusted, I would exert my whole endeavours to find and succour him. She could not imagine that a man of his spirit and disposition would live so long in obscurity; and her affliction derived new force from the death of the consul's widow, with whom she had lived in the most unbounded intimacy and friendship. From that day her health evidently declined: she foresaw her dissolution, and comforted herself with the hope of seeing her husband and her friend, in a place where no treachery is felt, and no sorrow is known; confident of my integrity, and the purity of my love, she in the most pathetic terms recommended Serafina to my care.—

Ha! weepst thou, fair excellence, at the remembrance of that tender scene, when the good Antonia, on the bed of death, joined thy soft hand to mine, and said, “Renaldo, I bequeath this orphan  
“to your love; it is a sacred pledge which if you  
“cherish with due honour and regard, internal peace  
“and happiness will ever smile within your bosom:” but

"but if you treat it with indifference, dishonour or neglect, just heaven will punish your breach of trust with everlasting disappointments and disquiet."

"Signior don Diego, I see you are moved, and therefore will not dwell on such distressful circumstances. The excellent Antonia exchanged this life for a more happy state; and so exquisite was the sorrow of the tender-hearted Serafina, as to torture me with the apprehension that she would not long survive her pious mother. How I obeyed the injunctions of that departing saint, Monimia (for that name she now assumed) can testify, until that artful serpent Fathom glided into our mutual confidence, abused our ears, poisoned our unsuspecting faith, and effected that fatal breach, productive of all the misery and vexation which we have suffered, and which is now so happily expelled."

"Heaven," said the Castilian, "hath visited me for the sins and errors of my youth; yet, such mercy hath been mingled with its chastisements, I dare not murmur or repine. The tears of penitence and sorrow shall water my Antonia's grave; as for Mendoza, I rejoice at his treachery, by which the obligation of my promise is cancelled, and my honour fully acquitted. He shall not triumph in his guilt: my services, my character and innocence shall soon confront his perfidy, and I hope, defeat his interest: the king is just and gracious, nor is my family and name unknown."

Here the Jew interposing, presented to him a letter from a person of consequence at Madrid, whom Joshua had interested in the cause of don Diego; that nobleman had already found means to represent the case of Zelos to his majesty, who had actually ordered don Manuel to be confined, until the injured person should appear to justify himself, and prosecute his accuser according to the terms of law: at the same time don Diego was summoned to present himself

self before the king within a limited time, to answer to the charge which Mendoza had brought against him.

The Spaniard's heart overflowed with gratitude and joy, when he read this intimation; he embraced the Jew, who, before Zelos could give utterance to his thoughts, told him that the Spanish ambassador at London, having been prepossessed in his favour, craved the honour of seeing don Diego; and that he, Joshua, was ready to conduct them to the house.

'Then is my heart at rest!' cried the Castilian, 'the house of Zelos once more shall lift up its head. I shall again revisit my native country with honour, and abase the villain who hath soiled my fame! O my children! this day is replete with such joy and satisfaction, as I did not think had been in the power of heaven to grant, without the interposition of a miracle! To you, Renaldo, to you illustrious lady, and to these worthy gentlemen, am I indebted for the restoration of that for which alone I wish to live; and when my heart ceases to retain the obligation, may I forfeit the name of a Castilian, and scorn and dishonour be my portion.'

Perhaps all Europe could not produce another company so happy as that which now sat down to dinner in the house of madam Clement, whose own benevolent heart was peculiarly adapted for such enjoyment. The lovers feasted their eyes more than their appetite, by a tender intercourse of glances, which needed not the slow interpretation of speech; while the Spaniard regarded them alternately with looks of wonder and paternal joy, and every individual surveyed the all-deserving pair with admiration and esteem.

Seraphina taking the advantage of this general satisfaction, when the heart, softened into complacency, deposits every violent thought: 'I must now, (said she) try my interest with Renaldo: the good company shall bear witness to my triumph or repulse. I do

‘not ask you to forgive, but to withhold your vengeance from the wretched Fathom. His fraud, ingratitude and villany are, I believe, unrivalled: yet his base designs have been defeated; and heaven perhaps hath made him the involuntary instrument for bringing our constancy and virtue to the test: besides, his perfidy is already punished with the last degree of human misery and disgrace: the doctor, who has traced him in all his conduct and vicissitudes of fortune, will draw a picture of his present wretchedness, which, I doubt not, will move your compassion, as it hath already excited mine.’

The generous hostess was ready to enforce this charitable proposal, with all her eloquence, when Melville with a look that well expressed his magnanimity of love, replied, ‘Such a boon becomes the gentle Serafina. O! every moment furnishes me with fresh matter to admire the virtues of thy soul: if thou, whose tender heart hath been so rent with misery and anguish, can’st intercede for thy tormentor, who now suffers in his turn, shall I refuse to pardon the miserable wretch! No, let me glory in imitating the great example, and solicit don Diego in behalf of the same miscreant whose perfidious barbarity cost him such intolerable woe.’ Enough,’ cried the Castilian, ‘I have disclaimed the vindictive principle of a Spaniard; and leave the miserable object to the sting of his own conscience, which soon or late, will not fail to avenge the wrongs we have sustained from his deceit.’

## C H A P. LXVI.

### *The History draws near a Period*

UNiversal was the applause which they acquired by this noble sacrifice of their resentment: the afternoon was spent in the utmost harmony and good humour: and at the earnest solicitation of Renaldo, whose fancy still harboured the apprehensions of another

their separation; Don Diego consented that the indissoluble knot should be tied between that young gentleman and Serafina in two days, and the place appointed for the ceremony was the very church where they had been restored to the arms of each other.

The lovely bride, with a silent blush that set her lover's heart on fire, submitted to this determination, in consequence of which, the company was bespoke for that auspicious hour, and the evening being pretty far advanced, they took leave of the ladies, and retired to their respective homes: don Diego and his future son-in-law being reconducted to their lodgings, in the coach of the Jew, who taking an opportunity of being alone with Melville, observed that it would be necessary on this occasion to supply the Castilian with a sum of money, in order to support his dignity and independence, furnishing Serafina with every thing suitable to her rank and merit; and that he would willingly accommodate him, provided he knew how to propose it so as to give no offence to his punctilious disposition.

Renaldo thanked him for this generous anticipation, advised him to solicit the Spaniard's correspondence in the way of business, and to put the whole on the footing of his own interest; by which means don Diego's delicacy could sustain no affront. Fraught with this instruction, the Israelite desired a private audience of the Castilian, in which, after an apology for the freedom of his demand, 'Signior don Diego, (said he) 'as your fortune hath been so long embezzled by 'your adversary in Spain, and your correspondence 'with that country intirely cut off, it is not to be 'supposed that your finances are at present in such a 'condition as to maintain the splendor of your family. Count de Melville's whole fortune is at your 'command; and had not he been afraid of giving 'umbrage to the peculiar delicacy of your sentiments, he would have pressed you to use it for 'your convenience. For my own part, over and

above

above the inclination I have to serve don Diego, I consult my own private advantage in desiring you to accept my service on this occasion. Money is the chief commodity in which I deal, and if you honour me with your commands, I shall be a gainer by my obedience.'

Don Diego replied with a smile that denoted how well he understood the meaning of this address, 'Surely, signior, I am bound by the strongest ties, to exert my utmost endeavours for your advantage; and I pray God this your proposal may have that issue. I am well acquainted with the count's generosity and refined notions of honour; and too much obliged by him already, to hesitate with punctilious reserve in accepting his future assistance; nevertheless, since you have contrived a scheme for removing all scruples of that sort, I shall execute it with pleasure; and in the form of business, you shall have all the security I can give for what shall be necessary to answer my present occasions.'

The preliminaries being thus settled, Joshua advanced for his use a thousand pounds, for which he would take neither bond, note, nor receipt, desiring only that the Castilian would mark it in his own pocket-book, that the debt might appear, in case any accident should befall the borrower. Although the Spaniard had been accustomed to the uncommon generosity of Melville, he could not help wondering at this nobleness of behaviour, so little to be expected from any merchant, much less from a Jewish broker.

While this affair was on the anvil, Renaldo, who could no longer withhold the communication of his happiness from his sister and relations in Germany, took up the pen, and in a letter to his brother-in-law, recounted all the circumstances of the surprizing turn of fate which he had experienced since his arrival in England; he likewise related the story of don Diego, and informed them of the day appointed for his nuptials.

and

and intreated the major to make a journey to London with his wife; or if that should be impracticable, to come as far as Brussels, where they should be met by him and his Serafina. There was now but one day between him and the accomplishment of his dearest wish, and that was spent in procuring a license, and adjusting the preparations for the grand festival. Don Diego in the forenoon visited madam Clement, to whom he repeated his warm acknowledgments of her bounty and maternal affection to his daughter, and presented to Serafina bank notes to the amount of five hundred pounds, to defray the necessary expence of her wedding ornaments.

All the previous steps being taken for the solemnization of this interesting event, and the hour of appointment arrived, the bridegroom, accompanied by his father-in-law, hastened to the place of rendezvous, which was the vestry-room of the church we have already described; where they were received by the good clergyman in his canonicals; and here they had not waited many minutes, when they were joined by madam Clement and the amiable bride, escorted by the friendly physician, who had all along bore such a share in their concerns. Serafina was dressed in a sack of white sattin, and the ornaments of her head were adjusted in the Spanish fashion, which gave a peculiar air to her appearance, and an additional spirit to those attractions which engaged the heart of each beholder. There was nothing remarkable in the habit of Renaldo, who had copied the plainness and elegance of his mistress: but when she entered the place, his features were animated with a double proportion of vivacity; and their eyes meeting, seemed to kindle a blaze which diffused warmth and joy thro' the countenances of all present.

After a short pause her father led her to the altar, and gave her away to the transported Renaldo, before the priest who performed the ceremony, and bestowed the nuptial benediction on this enraptured pair. The

sanction



sanction of the church being thus obtained, they withdrew into the vestry, where Melville sealed his title on her rosy lips, and presented his wife to the company, who embraced her in their turns, with fervent wishes for their mutual happiness.

Tho' the scene of this transaction was remote from any inhabited neighbourhood, the church was surrounded by a crowd of people, who with uncommon demonstration of surprize and admiration, petitioned heaven to bless so fair a couple. Such indeed was their eagerness to see them, that some lives were endangered by the pressure of the crowd, which attended them with loud acclamations to the coach, after the bridegroom had deposited in the hands of the minister, one hundred pounds for the benefit of the poor of that parish, and thrown several handfuls of money among the multitude. Serafina reembarked in madam Clement's convenience, with that good lady and don Diego, while Renaldo with the clergyman and doctor followed in Joshua's coach, to a pleasant country house upon the Thames, at the distance of a few miles from London. This the Jew had borrowed from the owner, for a few days, and there they were received by that honest Hebrew, who had provided a very elegant entertainment for the occasion: he had also bespoke a small but excellent band of music, which regaled their ears while they sat at dinner; and the afternoon being calm and serene, he prevailed on them to take the air on the river, in a barge which he had prepared for the purpose.

But, notwithstanding this diversity of amusement, Renaldo would have found it the longest day he had ever passed, had not his imagination been diverted by an incident which employed his attention during the remaining part of the evening. They had drank tea, and engaged in a party at whist, when they were surprized with a noise of contention from a publick house, that fronted the windows of the apartment in which they sat. Alarmed at this uproar, they forsook

their cards, and throwing up the casement, beheld a hearse surrounded by four men on horseback, who had stopped the carriage, and violently pulled the driver from his seat. This uncommon arrest had engaged the curiosity of the publican's family, who stood at the door to observe the consequence, when all of a sudden appeared a person in canonicals, well mounted, who riding up to those who maltreated the driver, bestowed upon one of them such a blow with the butt end of his whip, as laid him sprawling on the ground and springing from his saddle upon the box, took the reins into his own hand, swearing with great vehemence, that he would murder every man who should attempt to obstruct the hearse.

The good priest who had married Renaldo, was not a little scandalized at this ferocious behaviour in a clergyman, and could not help saying aloud, he was a disgrace to the cloth; when the horseman looking up to the window replied, 'Sir, may I be <sup>as</sup>d.—n'd if any man in England has a greater respect for the cloth than I have: but at present I am quite distracted.' So saying, he whipped up the horses, and had actually disentangled the hearse from those who surrounded it: when he was opposed by another troop, one of whom alighted with great expedition, and cut the harness so as that he could not possibly proceed: finding himself thus driven to bay he leaped upon the ground, and exercised his weapon with such amazing strength and agility, that several of his antagonists were left motionless on the field, before he was overpowered and disarmed by dint of numbers, who assailed him on all sides.

The mad parson being thus taken prisoner, an elderly person of a very prepossessing appearance, went up to the hearse, and unbolting the door, a young lady sprung out and shrieking ran directly to the public house, to the infinite astonishment and affright of the whole family, who believed it was the spirit of the deceased person, whose body lay in the carriage,

carriage. Renaldo, who was with difficulty restrained from interposing in behalf of the clergyman against such odds, no sooner perceived this apparition, than supposing her to be some distressed damsel, his Qixotism awoke, he descended in an instant, and rushed into the house among those who pursued the fair phantom. Don Diego and the physician took the same road, while the real clergyman and Joshua tarried with the ladies who were by this time very much interested in the event.

Melville found the young lady in the hands of the old gentleman, who had released her from the hearse, and who now bitterly upbraided her for her folly and disobedience: while she protested with great vivacity, that whatever she might suffer from his severity, she would never submit to the hateful match he had proposed, nor break the promise she had already made to the gentleman who had now attempted to rescue her from the tyranny of a cruel father. This declaration was followed by a plentiful shower of tears, which the father could not behold with unmoistened eyes, although he reviled her with marks of uncommon displeasure; and turning to the count, 'I appeal to you, Sir,' said he, 'whether I have not reason to curse the undutiful obstinacy of that pert baggage, and renounce her for ever as an alien to my blood. She has for some months been solicited in marriage by an honest citizen, a thirty thousand pound man; and instead of listening to such an advantageous proposal, she hath bellowed her heart upon a young fellow not worth a groat. Ah! you degenerate hussy, this comes of your plays and romances: if thy mother were not a woman of an unexceptionable life and conversation, I should verily believe thou art no child of mine: run away with a beggar! for shame!'

'I suppose,' replied Renaldo, 'the person to whom your daughter's affection inclines, is that clergyman who exerted himself so manfully at the door.'

‘door.’ ‘Clergyman!’ cried the other, ‘adad! he has more of the devil than the church about him. A ruffian, he has, for ought I know, murdered the worthy gentleman whom I intended for my son in law; and the rogue, if I had not kept out of his way, would I suppose have served me with the same sauce: me, who have been his master for many years, and had resolved to make a man of him. Sir, he was my own clerk, and this is the return I have met with from the serpent which I cherished in my bosom.’

Here he was interrupted by the arrival of the citizen for whom he had expressed such concern: that gentleman had received a contusion upon one eye, by which the sight was altogether obstructed; so that he concluded he should never retrieve the use of that organ, and with great clamour took all the spectators to witness the injury he had sustained: he entered the room with manifest perturbation, demanded satisfaction of the father, and peremptorily declared it should not be a lost eye to him, if there was law in England. This unseasonable demand, and the boisterous manner in which it was made, did not at all suit the present humour of the old gentleman, who told him peevishly he owed him no eye, and bad him go and ask reparation of the person who had done him wrong.

The young lady snatching this favourable occasion, earnestly entreated Melville and his company to intercede with her father in behalf of her lover, who, she assured them, was a young gentleman of a good family, and uncommon merit: and, in compliance with her request, they invited him and his daughter to the house in which they lodged, where they would be disincumbered of the croud which this dispute had gathered together, and more at leisure to consult about the measures necessary to be taken. The old gentleman thanked them for their courtesy, which he did not think proper to refuse; and while he led, or rather

rather hurried, Mademoiselle over the way, under the auspices of the Castilian, Renaldo set the lover at liberty, made him a tender of his good offices, and advised him to wait at the public house for an happy issue of their negotiation.

The pseudo-parson was very much affected by this generous proffer, for which he made suitable acknowledgements, and protested before God, he would die a thousand deaths, rather than part with his dear Charlotte. Her father no sooner entered the apartment, than he was known by Joshua to be a considerable trader in the city of London, and the merchant was glad to find himself among his acquaintance. He was so full of the story which had brought him thither, that he had scarce sat down, when he began to complain of his hard fate, in having an only child, who was so mean, stubborn, and contumacious; and every sentence was concluded with an apostrophe of reproaches to the delinquent.

The Jew having allowed him to ring out his alarm, condoled his misfortune, and gravely counselled the young lady to wean her affections from such an unworthy object; for he supposed her favourite was a man of no principle, or liberal endowments, otherwise her father would not exclaim so bitterly against her conduct. Charlotte, who wanted neither beauty nor understanding, assured him, that her lover's character was, in all respects, unblemished; for the truth of which assertion she appealed to her papa, who owned, with reluctance, that the young man was a gentleman by birth, that he had served him with remarkable diligence and integrity, and that his accomplishments were far superior to his station in life. 'But then, said he, the fellow has not a shilling of his own, and would you have me give away my daughter to a beggar?'

'God forbid! cried the Jew, I always understood you possessed an ample fortune, and am sorry to find it otherwise.' 'Otherwise! replied the citi-

'zen, with some acrimony, take care what you say,  
 'Sir, a merchant's credit is not to be tampered with.'  
 'I beg your pardon, answered the Hebrew, I con-  
 'cluded that your circumstances were bad, because  
 'you objected to the poverty of the young man, after  
 'you had owned he was possessed of every other qua-  
 'lification to make your daughter happy : for it is  
 'not to be imagined, that you would thwart her in-  
 'clinations, or seek to render an only child miser-  
 'able, on account of an obstacle which you yourself  
 'could easily remove. Let us suppose you can af-  
 'ford to give with your daughter ten thousand  
 'pounds, which would enable this young man to  
 'live with credit and reputation, and engage advan-  
 'tageously in trade, for which you say he is well  
 'qualified : the alternative then will be, whether you  
 'would rather see her in the arms of a deserving  
 'youth, whom she loves, enjoying all the comforts  
 'of life, with a moderate fortune, which it will al-  
 'ways be in your own power to improve ; or tied  
 'for life to a monied man, whom she detests, cursing  
 'her hard fate, and despising that superfluity of  
 'wealth, in spite of which she finds herself so truly  
 'wretched.'

The old gentleman seemed to be startled at this ob-  
 servation, which was reinforced by Renaldo's saying,  
 that he would, moreover, enjoy the unutterable plea-  
 sure of giving happiness to a worthy man, whose gra-  
 titude would co-operate with his love, in approving  
 himself a dutiful son, as well as an affectionate hus-  
 band. He then represented the family disquiets, and  
 dismal tragedies produced from such mercenary and  
 compulsive matches ; related the story of don Diego and  
 his daughter, which when the merchant heard, he star-  
 ted up with marks of terror in his countenance, and  
 throwing up the casement, called upon Valentine  
 with great vociferation ; this was the name of his  
 daughter's admirer, who no sooner heard the sum-

mons, than he flew to the spot from whence it came, and the merchant without any further preambles, seizing his hand, joined it with that of Charlotte, saying, with great trepidation, 'Here, take her, in the name of God, and thank this honourable company for your good fortune.'

The lovers were transported with exquisite joy at this sudden determination in their favour. Valentine having kissed the hand of his mistress with all the eagerness of rapture, and acknowledged the merchant's generosity, paid his respects to the ladies with a very polite address, and with demonstrations of uncommon gratitude and sensibility, thanked the gentlemen, and the count in particular, for their good offices, to which he attributed the happiness he now enjoyed. While Serafina and Madam Clement caressed the aimiable Charlotte, the rest of the company congratulated her admirer upon his choice and success; though the clergyman could not help reprehending him for profaning the sacerdotal habit.

Valentine heartily asked pardon for having given such cause of offence, and hoped he should be forgiven, as it was a disguise which he thought absolutely necessary for the execution of a scheme upon which his happiness altogether depended. He then, at the request of Renaldo, unfolded the mystery of the hearse, by giving them to understand, that Charlotte's father having got inkling of their mutual passion, had dismissed his clerk, and conveyed his daughter to a country house in the neighbourhood of London, in order to cut off their correspondence: notwithstanding these precautions, they had found means to communicate with each other by letters, which were managed by a third person, and his rival being very importunate in his solicitations, they had concerted the expedient of the hearse, which he provided and conducted through a road contiguous to the end of the merchant's garden, where Charlotte being apprized of the design, waited for its approach, and embark-

ed in it without hesitation. Valentine thought himself sufficiently screened from discovery by his disguise; but he was unfortunately met by a servant of the family, who recollected his features, and immediately gave the alarm, upon which the father and his friends took horse, and pursued them by two different roads, until they were overtaken at this place.

He had scarce finished this short relation, when his rival bluntly entering the apartment, with an handkerchief tied round his eye, committed Valentine to the charge of a constable, who attended him, by a warrant from a justice of the peace in that neighbourhood; and threatened to prosecute the merchant on an action of damages for the loss of an eye, which he said he had sustained in his service. The company endeavoured to appease this citizen, by representing, that his misfortune was no other than a common inflammation; nor was it owing to malice aforethought, but entirely to the precipitate passion of an incensed young man, who, by the bye, acted in his own defence. At the same time the merchant promised to make any reasonable satisfaction; upon which the other demanded an obligation, importing, that he would, in ten days from the date, bestow upon him his daughter in marriage, with a portion of fifteen thousand pounds, or, in case of failure, pay him double the sum.

The merchant, exasperated at this extravagant demand, told him flatly, he had already disposed of his daughter to Valentine, who, he believed, was a much more deserving man; and that he was ready to wait upon the magistrate who had granted the warrant, in order to give bail for his future son-in-law. This was a mortifying declaration to the plaintiff, though he consoled himself with the hope of being a gainer by the loss of his eye; and now the pain was over, would have been very sorry to find his sight retrieved. The old gentleman, Joshua, and Renaldo accompanied the prisoner to the house of  
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the justice, where he was immediately admitted to bail: upon their return, Valentine shifted his dress, and they supped together with great cordiality and mirth, maintained at the expence of the discarded lover.

After supper, Don Diego walked a minuet with Madam Clement, for whom, by this time, he had contracted an extraordinary degree of affection. Valentine had the honour to dance with the incomparable Serafina, whose beauty and attractions dazzled the eyes of the new comers, and struck her bashful partner with awe and confusion; and Melville presented his hand to the agreeable Charlotte, who performed so much to the satisfaction of her father, that he could not help expressing his joy and pride: he praised God for throwing him in the way of our company, and engaged the clergyman to unite the young couple; after having appointed a day for the ceremony, and invited all present to the wedding. The evening having been insensibly consumed in these avocations, and the night pretty far advanced, the ladies withdrew without ceremony; and the retreat of Serafina filled Renaldo's breast with tumult and emotion; his blood began to flow in impetuous tides, his heart to beat with redoubled vigour and velocity, while his eyes seemed to flash with more than human splendor; now his imagination began to anticipate with the enthusiastic rage of an inspired Sybil; he was instantaneously transported from the conversation, and every nerve was braced to such a degree of impatience, that human nature could not long endure the tension.

He therefore, having withstood the impulse about a quarter of an hour, at length gave way to his impetuosity, and springing from his friends, found himself in a dark passage, at the farther end of which, he perceived madam Clement coming out of a chamber with a light, which at sight of him she set down, and vanished in a moment, This was the star that pointed

to his paradise: he hailed the signal, entered the apartment, and like a lion rushing on his prey, approached the nuptial bed, where Serafina, surrounded by all the graces of beauty, softness, sentiment, and truth, lay trembling as a victim at the altar, and strove to hide her blushes from his view; the door was shut, the light extinguished: he owned his lot was more than mortal man could claim.

Here let me draw the decent veil, that ought to shade the sacred mysteries of Hymen: away unhallowed scoffers, who profane with idle pleasantry, or immodest hint, these holy rites; and leave those happy lovers to enjoy, in one another's arms, unutterable bliss, the well-earned palm of virtue and of constancy, which had undergone the most severe refinement: a more deserving pair night's curtain shrouds not in its dark extent.

The thoughts of Renaldo's felicity threw a damp on the spirits of Valentine, who saw the term of his probation protracted a few days longer, and could not help wishing in his heart, that he had achieved the adventure which would have abridged his expectation, though at the expence of the old gentleman's displeasure. He filled a bumper to the health of the bride and bridegroom, and throwing up his eyes, with marks of admiration, exclaimed, 'How happy is the count! alas! five days longer must I rein my impatience!'—'It is but reasonable, you rogue, that your betters should have the start of you,' said the merchant, who did him justice in the glass, and counselled him to drown his impatience with good claret. The youth followed his advice, and it was late before the company retired to rest.

These citizens, however, resolved to seize an opportunity of rallying the new married couple, according to custom, and with that view arose early in the morning, on the supposition of finding them still asleep; but they were not a little surprized, when they entered the breakfasting room, to see Renaldo, and

and his amiable bedfellow, already dressed, and waiting to do the honours of the house. The old gentleman would fain have cracked a joke upon their extraordinary dispatch, but he was so much over-awed by the dignity, and tamed by the sweetness of Serafina's carriage, that he durst not give utterance to his conception; and Valentine stood silent and abashed, as in the presence of a superior being. After breakfast, these gentlemen and Charlotte again expressed their sense of the obligations they owed to this happy family, repeated their invitation, and taking leave, returned to London in a coach that was provided over night.

Our friends being thus left to themselves, don Diego turning towards Melville, 'Now,' said he, 'that I have yielded to the impatience of your love, as well as to the eagerness of my own desire to make you happy, I must beg leave to interrupt, for a little while, the stream of your mutual pleasure, and propose a melancholy excursion, which, however, will not be wholly void of enjoyment. I have too long delayed the performance of my duty at Antonia's grave: let us spend the forenoon in that pious pilgrimage: I will drop a few tears to the memory of that excellent woman, and never afterwards shall my friends be troubled with my grief.'

The proposal being universally approved, they set out for the place, which had oft been visited by the gentle Serafina, who conducted her father to a black marble stone, which Renaldo had ordered to be laid over the grave, and as he kneeled to kiss the monument, he perceived this plain inscription in the Spanish tongue: 'Antonia de Zelos primera en todo lo que es ser bueno, y sin segundo en todo lo que fué ser desdichado, quedad con Dios!' that is, 'Antonia de Zelos, unmatched in virtue, and unequalled in misfortune, adieu!'—'O faithful record!' cried the Castilian, smiting his breast, while his tears dis-

till'd upon the marble, 'thy goodness was the gift  
 ' of heaven, but thy misfortunes were derived from  
 ' the guilt of don Diego; yet his sorrow shall expiate  
 ' his offence, and his penitence find favour in the  
 ' sight of heaven: rest, rest, ill-fated virtue! eternal  
 ' peace shall guard thy tomb, and angels minister to  
 ' thy unspotted shade; nor shall thine ashes lie in  
 ' dark obscurity: here will I raise a monument,  
 ' more suited to thy excellence and name.' Serafina  
 melted with filial tenderness, nor were the rest un-  
 moved at this affecting scene, which don Diego did  
 not quit without reluctance.

## CH A P. LXVII.

### *The longest and the last.*

**T**HE nature of this visit had softened every heart,  
 and sadden'd every countenance; and they  
 walked in solemn silence to the other side of the  
 church-yard, in order to regain their carriages; when  
 at the turning of the stile, they saw a young woman,  
 in a wretched attire, running out of a poor habita-  
 tion, wringing her hands in all the agony of despair.  
 Notwithstanding the distraction in her countenance,  
 and the meanness of her apparel, she discovered a  
 regularity of features, and a delicacy of air, which  
 did not at all correspond with the misery of her equi-  
 page. These exhibitions of extreme distress, soon  
 attracted the notice and compassion of our company,  
 and Melville's beauteous help-mate, accosting this  
 forlorn damsel with a pity-breathing aspect, asked  
 the cause of her disorder.

'Alas! dear lady,' cried the other, with all the  
 emphasis of woe, 'an unhappy gentleman now  
 ' breathes his last, within this inhospitable hovel,  
 ' amidst such excess of misery, as would melt the  
 ' most flinty bosom: what then must I feel, who am  
 ' connected with him by the strongest ties of love  
 ' and conjugal affection!'—'Who is the unfortunate  
 ' object?'

'object?' said the physician. 'He was once well known in the gay world:' replied the young woman, 'his name is Fathom.' Every individual of the company started at mention of that detested name. Serafina began to tremble with emotion; and Renaldo, after a short pause, declared he would go in, not with a view to exult over his misery, but in order to contemplate the catastrophe of such a wicked life, that the moral might be the more deeply engraved on his remembrance. The young countess, whose tender heart could not bear the shock of such a spectacle, retired to the coach with madam Clement and the Jew, while Renaldo, accompanied by the rest, entered a dismal apartment, altogether void of furniture and convenience, where they beheld the wretched hero of these memoirs, stretched almost naked upon straw, insensible, convulsed, and seemingly in the grasp of death. He was worn to the bone either by famine or distemper; his face was overshadowed with hair and filth; his eyes were sunk, glazed and distorted; his nostrils dilated; his lips covered with a black slough, and his complexion faded into a pale clay-colour, tending to a yellow hue: in a word, the extremity of indigence, squalor and distress, could not be more feelingly represented.

While Melville perused this melancholy lesson, and groaning, cried, 'Behold the fate of man!' he perceived a letter in the right hand of the unfortunate Fathom, which lay fast clinched across his breast. Curious to know the contents of this paper, which the young woman said he had kept in that position for several days, he drew nearer the wretched couch, and was not a little surprized to see it addressed 'To the right honourable Renaldo count de Melville, to the care of Mr. Joshua Manassah, merchant in London.' When he attempted to disengage this billet from the author's hand, the sorrowing female fell on her knees, entreating him to desist, and telling him, she had promised, upon oath, to communicate  
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the contents to no person upon earth, but to carry the letter, upon her husband's decease, to the gentleman to whose care it was directed.

Renaldo assured her upon his honour, that he was the very Renaldo count de Melville for whom it was intended; and the young creature was so much confounded at this information, that before she could recollect herself, Melville had opened the billet, and read these words:

' If this paper should fall into the hands of the noble Renaldo, he will understand that Fathom was the most execrable traitor that ever imposed upon unsuspecting benevolence, or attempting to betray a generous benefactor. His whole life was a series of fraud, perfidy and the most abominable ingratitude: but of all the crimes that lay heavy upon his soul, his being accessory to the death of the incomparable Serafina, whose father he had also robbed, was that for which he despaired of heaven's forgiveness, notwithstanding the dreadful compunction and remorse which have long preyed upon his heart, together with the incredible misery and deplorable death which by this time he hath undergone. Though these sufferings and sorrows cannot atone for his enormous guilt, perhaps they will excite the compassion of the humane count de Melville: at least, this confession which my conscience dictates under all the terrors of death and futurity, may be a warning for him to avoid henceforth a smiling villain, like the execrable Fathom, upon whose miserable soul almighty God have mercy.'

Renaldo was deeply affected with the contents of this scroll, which denoted such horror and despair. He saw there could be no dissimulation or sinister design in this profession of penitence; he beheld the condition of the writer, which put all his humane passions

passions in commotion; so that he remembered nothing of Fathom but his present distress. He could scarce contain those indications which might have been justly deemed the effect of weakness and infirmity; and having desired the physician and clergyman to contribute their assistance for the benefit of that wretch's soul and body, he ran to the coach, and communicated the letter to the ladies; at the same time drawing a picture of the object he had seen, which brought tears into the eyes of the gentle Serafina, who earnestly intreated her lord to use his endeavours for the relief and recovery of the unhappy man; that he might, if possible, live to enjoy the benefit of mature repentance, and not die in that dreadful despair which he manifested in the letter.

Renaldo returning to the house, found the pious clergyman reading prayers with great fervency; while Don Diego stood with his right hand upon his breast, looking stedfastly upon the agonizing Fathom, and the young woman kneeled with her streaming eyes lifted up to heaven in an extasy of grief and devotion: the physician had run to an apothecary's shop in the neighbourhood, from whence he soon returned with an assistant, who applied a large blister to the back of the miserable patient, while the female, by the doctor's direction, moistened his mouth with a cordial which he had prescribed.

These charitable steps being taken, count de Melville intreated the apothecary's servant to procure a tent-bed for the accommodation of the sick person, with all imaginable dispatch; and in less than an hour, one was actually pitched, and Fathom lifted into it, after he had been shifted, and in some measure purified from the dregs of his indigence. During this transaction the ladies were conducted to a tavern not far off, where dinner was bespoke, that they might be at hand to see the effect of their charity; which was not confined to what we have already described, but extended so far, that in a little time the  
apart-

apartment was comfortably furnished, and the young creature provided with change of apparel, and money to procure the necessaries of subsistence.

Notwithstanding all their care, the wretched Fathom still remained insensible, and the doctor pronounced a very unfavourable prognostic, while he ordered a pair of additional vesicatories to be laid upon his arms, and other proper medicines to be administered. After dinner the ladies ventured to visit the place, and when Serafina crossed the threshold, the weeping female fell at her feet, and kissing her robe, exclaimed, 'Sure you are an angel from heaven!'

The alteration in her dress had made a very agreeable change in her appearance, so that the countess could now look upon her without shuddering at her distress: and as Fathom was not in a condition to be disturbed, she took this opportunity of inquiring by what steps that unfortunate wretch was conveyed from the prison, in which she knew he had been confined, to the place where he now lay in such extremity; and by what occurrence he had found a wife in such an abyss of misfortune. Here the other's tears began to flow afresh. 'I am ashamed,' said she, 'to reveal my own folly; yet I dare not refuse a satisfaction of this kind to a person who has laid me under such signal obligations.'

She then proceeded to relate her story, by which it appeared, she was no other than the fair and unhappy Elinor, whom the artful Fathom had debauched upon his first arrival in town, in the manner already described in these memoirs. 'Heaven,' continued she, 'was pleased to restore the use of my reason which I had lost, when I found myself abandoned by the count: but, all my connection with my own family being entirely cut off, and every door shut against a poor creature who could procure no recommendation, except the certificate signed by the physician of bedlam, which instead of introducing me  
to



to service, was an unsurmountable objection to my character : I found myself destitute of all means of subsisting, unless I would condescend to live the infamous and wretched life of a courtesan, an expedient rendered palatable by the terror of want, co-operating with the reflection of the irretrievable loss I had already sustained. I ask pardon for offending your chaste ears with this impure confession of my guilt, which heaven knows, I then did, and now do look upon with abhorrence and detestation. I had already forfeited my innocence, and wanted resolution to encounter misery and death. Nevertheless, before I could determine to embrace the condition of a prostitute, I was one day accosted in the park by an elderly gentleman who sat down by me upon a bench, and taking notice of the despondence which was evident in my countenance, pressed me to make him acquainted with the nature of my misfortune. So much sympathy and good sense appeared in his deportment and conversation, that I gratified his request, and he, in return for my confidence, saved me from the most horrible part of my prospect, by taking me into his protection, and reserving me for his own appetite. In this situation I lived a whole year, until I was deprived of my keeper by an apoplectic fit, and turned out of doors by his relations, who did not however, strip me of my clothes and moveables, which I owed to his bounty. Far from being as yet reconciled to a vitious life, I resolved to renounce the paths of shame, and converting my effects into ready money, hired a small shop and furnished it with haberdashery ware, intending to earn an honest livelihood by the sale of these commodities, together with the plainwork in which I hoped to be employed, so soon as my talents should be known. But this scheme did not answer expectation. The goods spoiled upon my hands, and as I was a stranger in the neighbourhood, no body would intrust me with  
any

any other business : so that notwithstanding the most parsimonious œconomy, I ran in debt to my landlord, who seized my effects ; and an hosier from whom I had received some parcels upon credit, took out a writ against me, by virtue of which I was arrested and imprisoned in the Marshalsea, where I found my first seducer. Good heaven ! what did I feel at this unexpected meeting, overwhelmed as I was before, with my own distress, I with a loud scream fainted away, and when I recovered, found myself in the arms of Mr. Fathom, who wept over me with great affliction. All his prospects of gaiety had now vanished, and his heart was softened by his own misfortunes, to a feeling of another's woe, as well as to a due sense of his own guilt. He expressed the deepest sorrow for having been the occasion of my ruin, endeavoured to comfort me with promise of assistance, and indeed by practising medicine among the prisoners, made shift to keep us both from starving. But surely no sinner underwent such severe remorse as that which he suffered during his imprisonment. From the day of our meeting, I never once saw him smile ; a melancholy cloud continually overhung his countenance. He numbered the minutes by his groans ; he used to start with horror from his sleep, and striking his breast, would exclaim, " O Elinor ! I am the worst of villains ! " Sometimes he seemed disordered in his brain, and raved about Renaldo and Monimia. In a word, his mind was in a dreadful situation, and all his agonies were communicated to me, whom by this time he had married, in order to make some atonement for my wrongs. Wretched as he then was, I remembered the accomplished youth who had captivated my virgin heart : the old impressions still remained ; I saw his penitence, pitied his misfortune ; and his wife being dead, consented to join his fate, the ceremony having been performed by a fellow-prisoner,

ner, who was in orders. Though his hard hearted creditor had no other chance of being paid than that of setting him at liberty, he lent a deaf ear to all our supplications: and this cruelty conspiring with the anguish of my husband's own reflection, affected his health and spirits to such a degree, that he could no longer earn the miserable pittance which had hitherto supported our lives. Then our calamities began to multiply. Indigence and famine stared us in the face; and it was with the utmost difficulty that we resisted their attacks, by selling or pledging our wearing apparel, until we were left almost quite-naked, when we found ourselves discharged by an act passed for the relief of insolvent debtors. This charitable law, which was intended for a consolation to the wretched, proved to us the most severe disaster; for we were turned out into the streets, utterly destitute of food, raiment and lodging; at a time when Mr. Fathom was so weakened by his distemper, that he could not stand alone. I supported him from door to door, imploring the compassion of charitable christians; and was at length permitted to shelter him in this miserable place, where his disease gaining ground, he lay three days in that deplorable condition, from which he hath now been rescued, (tho' I fear too late) by your humanity and benevolence.

She shed a flood of tears at the conclusion of this mournful tale, which did not fail to affect the whole audience, especially Serafina, who assured her, that whatever should happen to her husband, she might depend upon finding favour and protection, provided her conduct should correspond with her professions. While this grateful creature kissed the hand of her kind benefactress, Fathom uttered a groan, began to stir in the bed, and with a languid voice called upon Elinor, who instantly withdrawing the curtain, presented the whole company to his view. He had now retrieved the use of his perception by the operation of the

the blisters, which began to torture him severely: he looked around him with amazement and affright, and distinguishing the three persons against whom the chief arrows of his fraud and treachery had been levelled, he concluded that he was now arrived at the land of departed souls, and that the shades of those whom he had so grievously injured, were come to see him tormented according to his demerits.

Fraught with this notion, which was confirmed by the bodily pain which he felt, and the appearance of the clergyman and Joshua, whom he mistook for the ministers of vengeance, he cried in a tone replete with horror, 'Is there no mercy then for penitence! is there no pity due to the miseries I suffered upon earth! save me, O bountiful heaven! from the torments of everlasting woe; hide me from these dreadful executioners, whose looks are torture; forgive me, generous Castilian! O Renaldo! thou hadst once a tender heart. I dare not lift my eyes to Serafina! that pattern of human excellence who fell a victim to my atrocious guilt; yet, her aspect is all mildness and compassion. Ha! are not these the drops of pity? Yes, they are tears of mercy: they fall like refreshing showers upon my drooping soul! ah murdered innocence! wilt thou not intercede for thy betrayer at the throne of grace!'

Here he was interrupted by Melville, who with a grave and solemn air pronounced, 'great hath been thy guilt, unhappy Ferdinand, and great have been thy sufferings. Yet, we come not to insult, but to alleviate thy distress. Providence hath kindly defeated thy dire intentions, which we therefore now forgive and transmit to oblivion, whether it be thy lot to yield up thy spirit immediately, or to survive the dangerous malady with which thou art at present overwhelmed. Suffer not thyself to despair; for the mercy of heaven is infinite; and submit to the directions of this worthy gentleman, who will employ his skill for thy recovery, while we shall take  
care

‘care to furnish thee with necessary attendance : as too much speaking may be prejudicial to thy health, I dispense with a reply, and exhort thee to compose thyself to rest.’ So saying, he drew the curtain, and the company retired, leaving Fathom intranced with wonder.

The next step which Renaldo took for the benefit of this wretched penitent, was to send for the apothecary, with whom he left a sum of money to be expended for the convenience of Fathom and his wife ; then he laid injunctions upon the physician to repeat his visits ; and that gentleman, together with the clergyman and Joshua, taking leave of the others till next day, the count set out with the ladies and his father-in-law, to the house where they had lodged the preceding night.

The reader may well imagine the conversation of the evening turned wholly upon the strange occurrence of the day, which seemed to have been concerted by supernatural prescience, in order to satisfy the vengeance, and afford matter of triumph to the generosity of those who had been so grievously injured by the guilty Fathom. Though not one of them would say that such a miscreant ought to live ; yet all concurred in approving the offices of humanity which had been performed, and even endeavoured to find specious pretexts for vindicating their compassion. Don Diego said, it would ill become a transgressor like him, to withhold his forgiveness from a sinner who had wronged him : madam Clement appealed to the approbation of heaven, which had undoubtedly directed them that way, for the purpose they had fulfilled : Serefina observed, that the crimes of the delinquent were obliterated by his sorrow, misery and repentance ; Renaldo honestly owned, that, exclusive of other reasons, he could not deny himself the luxurious enjoyment of communicating happiness to his fellow-creatures in distress ; and each fervently prayed, that  
their

their charity might not be disappointed by the death of the object.

While they amused themselves in these discussions, Fathom after having lain some hours silent, in consequence of Renaldo's advice, could no longer suppress the astonishment of his mind, but addressing himself to his wife, 'O Elinor!' said he, 'my delirium is now past; though I still remember the phantasies of my distempered brain: among other reveries, my imagination was regaled with a vision so perfect and distinct, as to emulate truth and reality. Methought count de Melville, don Diego de Zelos, and the divine Serefina, the very persons who are now crying before the throne of heaven for vengeance against the guilty Fathom, stood by my bedside, with looks of pity and forgiveness; and that Renaldo spoke peace to my despairing soul. I heard the words distinctly: I retain them in my memory. I saw the tears trickle from Serefina's eyes: I heard her father utter a compassionate sigh; and should actually believe that they were personally present, had not I long ago seen with my own eyes the funeral procession of that young lady whose wrongs God pardon; and were I not convinced that such a meeting could not be effected without the immediate and miraculous interposition of heaven. Yet every thing I now see, corresponds with the words of Renaldo, which still sound in my ears. When my perception forsook me, I lay in the most abject misery, among straw; and thou, poor injured innocence, wast naked and forlorn. Now, I find myself reposed in a warm, easy, comfortable bed: I see around me the marks of human charity and care, and the favourable change in thy appearance, gladdens my poor dejected heart. Say, whence this happy alteration? Do I really awake from that dream of misery in which we have continued so long? or do I still utter the extravagant ravings of a distempered brain?'

Elinor

Elinor was afraid of imparting at once all the particulars of the happy change he had undergone, lest they might leave a dangerous impression upon his fancy, which was not yet duly composed: she contented herself, therefore, with telling him, that he had been obliged to the humanity of a gentleman and lady, who chanced to pass that way by accident, and who understanding his deplorable case, had furnished him with the conveniencies which he now enjoyed: she then presented to him what the doctor had directed her to administer, and admonishing him to commit his head to the pillow, he was favoured with a breathing sweat, fell fast asleep, and in a few hours waked again altogether cool and undisturbed.

It was upon this occasion that his wife explained the circumstances of that visit which had redeemed him from extremity of wretchedness and the jaws of death; upon which he started up, and throwing himself upon his knees, exclaimed, 'All gracious Power! this was the work of thy own bounteous hand; the voice of my sorrow and repentance hath been heard. Thou hast inspired my benefactors with more than mortal goodness in my behalf; how shall I praise thy name! how shall I requite their generosity! O I am bankrupt to both! yet, let me not perish until I shall have convinced them of my reformation, and seen them enjoying that felicity which ought to be reserved for such consummate virtue.'

Next day, in the forenoon, he was visited by the physician, whom he now recollected to have seen at the house of Madam Clement; and after having thanked that gentleman for his humanity and care, he earnestly begged to know by what means Serafina had been preserved. When he was satisfied in this particular, and given to understand that she was now happy in the arms of Renaldo, 'Blessed be God!' he cried, 'for having defeated the villainy of him who sought to part such lovers. Dear sir, will you  
add,

add one circumstance to your charity, and bear to that happy couple, and the noble don Diego, the respects and the remorse of a sincere penitent, whom their compassion hath raised to life. I have been such a traitor to them, that my words deserve no regard. I will not therefore use professions. I dare not hope to be admitted into their presence. I am, indeed, ashamed to see the light of the sun: how then could I bear the looks of that injured family! ah, no! let me hide myself in some obscure retreat, where I may work out my salvation with fear and trembling, and pray incessantly to heaven for their prosperity.'

The physician promised to represent his contrition to the count and his lady, and accordingly proceeded to their habitation, where he repeated these expressions, and pronounced his patient out of danger: so that their thoughts were now employed in concerting a scheme for his future subsistence, that he might not be exposed by indigence to a relapse in point of morals. Renaldo being still averse to any personal intercourse with such a wretch, until he should give some undoubted proofs of amendment, and as yet afraid of intrusting him with any office that required integrity, resolved, with the approbation of all present, to settle him in a cheap country in the north of England, where he and his wife could live comfortably on an annuity of sixty pounds, until his behaviour should intitle him to a better provision.

This resolution was just taken, when Joshua arrived with a gentleman whom he introduced to don Diego as the secretary of the Spanish ambassador. After the first compliments, this stranger told the Castilian, that he waited upon him at the desire of his excellency, who would have come in person, had he not been confined by the gout. Then he put into his hand, a letter from the court of Madrid, written by a nobleman of Diego's acquaintance, who informed him, that don Manuel de Mendoza having made  
away



away with himself by poison, in order to avoid the disgrace of a legal conviction, his catholic majesty was now convinced of don Diego's innocence, and granted him leave to return, and take possession of his honours and estates. This information was confirmed by the secretary, who assured him that the ambassador had orders to make him acquainted with this favourable decision of the king. The Castilian having first acquitted himself in the most polite terms to the secretary and the Jew, who, he said, had always been a messenger of glad tidings, communicated his happiness to the company; and this evening concluded the third day of their rejoicing,

Next morning, don Diego went to visit the ambassador, accompanied by Joshua and the secretary; while the physician repairing to the habitation of Fathom, signified, by Renaldo's direction, the resolution which had been taken in his behalf; and the patient no sooner heard his doom, than lifting up his hands, he cried, 'I am unworthy of such tenderness and benevolence:' while Elinor shed a flood of tears in silence, unable to give utterance to her grateful thought; Melville's bounty having so far transcended her most sanguine hope.

The Spaniard having paid his devoirs to his excellency, returned before dinner; and in the afternoon, desiring a private conference with Serafina, they retired into another apartment, and he expressed himself to this effect: 'You have contracted,' my dear child, 'an habit of calling madam Clement your mother, and doubtless, by her maternal tenderness and regard, she hath acquired a just title to the appellation: yet I own I would fain strengthen it by a legal claim. I no sooner retrieved my daughter, than I gave her away to the most deserving youth that ever sighed with love. I rejoice in the gift which secured your happiness: but I left myself in a solitary situation, which even the return of my good fortune cannot render easy and supportable.

ble. When I revisit the castle of Zelos, every well known object will recall the memory of my Antonia, and I shall want a companion to fill her place, and to sympathize with me in that sorrow which will be derived from my remembrance. Who is there so worthy to succeed your mother in the affection of don Diego, as she who interests her love for Serafina, and resembles her so strongly in every virtue of the sex? Similar attractions will produce similar effects. My heart is already attached to that good lady; and provided Serafina shall approve of my choice, I will lay myself and fortune at her feet.'

The fair countess replied, with an enchanting smile, that before this declaration she had with pleasure perceived the progress which madam Clement had made in his heart; and that she did not believe there was a person upon earth better qualified to repair the loss he had sustained; though she foresaw one obstacle to his happiness, which she was afraid would not be easily surmounted. 'You mean,' answered the Castilian, 'the difference of religion, which I am resolved to remove by adopting the Protestant faith; though I am fully satisfied that real goodness is of no particular persuasion, and that salvation cannot depend upon belief, over which the will has no influence. I invest you therefore with the charge of declaring my passion and proposal, and empower you to satisfy her scruples with regard to the religion which I now profess, and which I shall not openly relinquish, until I shall have secured, in this country, effects sufficient to screen me from the ill consequences of my king's displeasure.'

Serafina undertook this office with pleasure, because she had reason to think his addresses would not be disagreeable to madam Clement; and that same night made the count acquainted with the nature of her commission. Nor was her expectation disappoint-

ed:

ed: the French lady, with that frankness which is peculiar to virtue and good breeding, confessed that don Diego was not indifferent to her choice, and did not hesitate in receiving him upon the footing of a lover. As we have already dwelt circumstantially on the passion of love, so as perhaps even to have tired our readers, we shall not repeat the dialogue that passed, when the Spaniard was indulged with an opportunity to explain his sentiments. Suffice it to observe, that the lady's days of coquetry were now over, and that she was too wise to trifle with the time, which every moment became more and more precious. It was agreed then, that don Diego should settle his affairs in Spain, and return to England, in order to espouse madam Element, with a view to fix his residence in this island, where Renaldo likewise proposed to enjoy the sweets of his fortune, provided he could draw hither his interests and connections.

Mean while, having for some days enjoyed his bliss with all the fulness of rapture amidst this small but agreeable society, he shifted the scene, and conducted his dear partner to a ready furnished house in town, which, together with an occasional equipage, his friend Joshua had hired for the accommodation of him and his father-in-law, who, during his stay in England, failed not to cultivate the mistress of his heart with the most punctual assiduity. Hitherto Serafina had been as a precious jewel locked up in a casket, which the owner alone has an opportunity to contemplate: but now the count, who was proud of such a prize, resolved to let her shine forth to the admiration of the whole world. With this view, he bespoke such ornaments as befitted her quality, and while the mantua-makers were employed in her service, made a tour among his former acquaintance, and discharged the obligations under which he lay to some who had assisted him in his distress. He did not, however, introduce them to his charming Sera-

fina; because not one of them had formerly treated her with that delicacy of regard which he thought her due; and some of them were much mortified at their neglect, when they saw what a dazzling figure she made in the beau monde.

She was visited by the Spanish and Imperial ambassadors, and divers other foreigners of distinction, to whom Melville had letters of recommendation; but her first public appearance was in a box at the opera, accompanied by madam Clement, the count, and don Diego: the entertainment was already begun, so that her entrance had the greater effect upon the audience, whose attention was soon detached from the performance, and rivetted upon this amiable apparition, which seemed to be some bright being of another world dropt from the clouds among them. Then did the spirit of curiosity play its part: a thousand whispers circulated; as many glasses were exalted to reconnoitre this box of foreigners, for such they concluded them to be from their appearance. Every male spectator acknowledged Serafina to be the paragon of beauty; and every female confessed, that Melville was the model of a fine gentleman. The charms of the young countess did not escape the eye and approbation of royalty itself; and when her rank was known, from the information of the ambassadors and other people of condition who were seen saluting her at a distance, that same evening a thousand bumpers were swallowed in honour of the countess de Melville. The fame of her beauty was immediately extended over this immense metropolis, and different schemes were concerted for bringing her into life. These, however, she resisted with unwearied obstinacy. Her happiness centered in Renaldo, and the cultivation of a few friends within the shade of domestic quiet: she did not even forget the concerns of the wretched Fathom, and his faithful Elinor, who daily enjoyed fresh instances of her humanity and care: when his fever forsook him, he was supplied with

with nourishing food for the recovery of his health; and as soon as he found himself in a condition to travel, he gave notice to his benefactor, who desired Joshua to settle with him the manner in which he was to receive his allowance, and to pay the first half year's salary per advance.

This affair being adjusted, and the place of his retreat signified, the Jew told Elinor, that she might wait upon the countess before their departure; and she did not fail to make use of this permission. After they had made the necessary preparations for their journey, and taken places in the York stage-coach, *Mrs. Fathom*, cloathing herself in decent apparel, went to the house of count *Melville*, and was immediately admitted to the presence of *Serafina*, who received her with her usual complacency, enriched her with salutary advice, comforted her with hope of better things, provided her conduct and that of her husband should henceforth be found irreproachable; and wishing her peace and happiness, presented her with a box of linen, and twenty guineas in a purse. Such excessive goodness overpowered this sensible young woman to such a degree, that she stood before her in speechless awe and veneration; and the countess, in order to relieve her from the confusion under which she suffered, quitted the room, leaving her to the care of her woman. It was not long, however, before her gratitude broke out in loud exclamations and a violent passion of tears, which all her efforts could not, for a good while, overcome. By this time the coach was brought up to the gate, for the reception of *Serafina*, who took an airing every day at the same hour; when *Renaldo*, leading her to the vehicle, beheld a man plainly dressed standing within the court, with his head and body bent towards the earth, so that his countenance could not be perceived.

*Melville*, who supposed him to be some unfortunate man come to implore his charity, turned towards him, and asked, with a humane accent, if he wanted

to speak with any person in the house? To this interrogation the stranger replied, without lifting up his head, 'Overwhelmed as I am with count Melville's generosity, together with a consciousness of my own unworthiness, it ill becomes a wretch like me to importune him for further favour; yet I could not bear the thought of withdrawing (perhaps for ever) from the presence of my benefactor, without soliciting his permission to see his face in mercy, to acknowledge my atrocious crimes, to hear my pardon confirmed by his voice, and that of his accomplished countess, whom I dare not even at a distance behold; and to express my fervent wish for their prosperity.'

Melville, whose heart was but too tender, could not hear this address without emotion: he recognized the companion of his infancy and youth; he remembered the happy scenes he had enjoyed with Fathom, whose voice had always such an effect upon his ear, as to excite the ideas of friendship and esteem; and he was disturbed by this unexpected meeting, which also discomposed the beautiful Serafina. Renaldo having paused a little, 'It is with pain,' said he, 'I recollect any thing to the prejudice of Fathom, whose future behaviour will, I hope, erase the memory of his offences, and justify what other steps I may take in his favour. Mean while I heartily forgive what is past; and, in token of my sincerity, present my hand;' which our adventurer bathed with his tears. The countess, whose mind was unison with her husband, repeated her assurances of pardon and protection; at which the penitent rejoiced in silence, while he raised his head and took a parting view of those charms which had formerly enslaved his heart.

Having thus obeyed the dictates of his duty and inclination, he next morning embarked in the stage-coach, with his faithful Elinor, and in six days arrived at the place of his retreat, which he found extremely well adapted to the circumstances of his mind and fortune; for all his vice and ambition was now quite mortified.

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mortified within him, and his whole attention engrossed in atoning for his former crimes, by a sober and penitent life, by which alone he could deserve the uncommon generosity of his patrons.

While he thus accommodated himself to his new system, Renaldo received letters of congratulation from his sister, who with the major had come to Brussels, in order to meet her brother and Serafina, according to his proposal. This intimation being communicated to don Diego, he resolved to accompany them to Flanders, in his way to Spain. Preparations were made for their departure; the clergyman and physician were honoured with valuable marks of friendship and esteem from the countess, Renaldo and the Castilian, who were convoyed to Deal by madam Clement, to whom, at parting, don Diego presented a diamond ring, as a pledge of his inviolable love.

Here the travellers hired a vessel for Ostend, which they reached in a few hours; in two days more they arrived at Brussels, where Mrs. Farrel and her husband were struck with admiration at the surprizing beauty and accomplishment of their sister-in-law, whom they caressed with equal tenderness and joy.— In a word, all parties were as happy as good fortune could make them; and don Diego set out for Spain, after they had agreed to reside in the Low Countries till his return.

END of the ADVENTURES of COUNT FATHOM.